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1	UNITED STATES DISTRIC	T COURT
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO	
3	EASTERN DIVISION	
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6	IN RE: NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION	MDL No. 2804
	OPIATE LITIGATION	
7		Case No.
		17-md-2804
8		
		Judge Dan Aaron
9		Polster
10	This document relates to:	
11	The County of Summit, Ohio, et	al. v. Purdue
	Pharma L.P., et al., Case No. 1	8-OP-45090
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16	Videotaped Deposition	
17	GRETA JOHNSON, 30(b)(6)
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1.0	January 15, 201	9
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0.1	Taken at:	
21	Sheraton Suites Ak	ron
22	1989 Front Street - Por	
22	Cuyahoga Falls, O	
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25	Stephen J. DeBacco,	RPR
20	Beepiteir 6. Bebacco,	

1 4	PPEARANCES:	Page 2	1 APPEARANCES Continued	Page
1 Al			1 APPEARANCES, Continued: 2	
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1 A	On behalf of Johnson & Johnson and	Page 3	1 APPEARANCES, Continued:	Page
1 A 2	On behalf of Johnson & Johnson and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.:	Page 3	1 APPEARANCES, Continued: 2 On behalf of Cephalon, Inc.; Teva	Page
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11 A 22 33 44	On behalf of Johnson & Johnson and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.: Tucker Ellis, LLP, by ZACHARY J. ADAMS, ESQ. 950 North Main Avenue, Suite 1100 Cleveland, Ohio 44113-7213	Page 3	1 APPEARANCES, Continued: 2 On behalf of Cephalon, Inc.; Teva 3 Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; Actavis, LLC; Actavis Pharma, Inc. f/k/a Watson Pharma, 4 Inc.; and Watson Laboratories, Inc., via telephone:	Page
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11 A 12 A 13 A 14 A 15 A	On behalf of Johnson & Johnson and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.: Tucker Ellis, LLP, by ZACHARY J. ADAMS, ESQ. 950 North Main Avenue, Suite 1100 Cleveland, Ohio 44113-7213 (216) 696-5474 zachary.adams@tuckerellis.com	Page 3	1 APPEARANCES, Continued: 2 On behalf of Cephalon, Inc.; Teva 3 Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; Actavis, LLC; Actavis Pharma, Inc. f/k/a Watson Pharma, 4 Inc.; and Watson Laboratories, Inc., via telephone: 5 Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, by	Page
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19 Jones Day on behalf of Walmart. 20 MR. HAWKINS: Will Hawkins of 21 Williams & Connolly on behalf of Cardinal 22 Health. 23 MR. ADAMS: Zach Adams on behalf of 24 Tucker Ellis or here from Tucker Ellis on 26 Now, you're a lawyer; is that 20 right? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Have you ever had your deposition 23 taken before? 24 A. I have not had my deposition taken.				-
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21 Williams & Connolly on behalf of Cardinal   22 Health.   22 Q. Have you ever had your deposition   23 MR. ADAMS: Zach Adams on behalf of   24 Tucker Ellis or here from Tucker Ellis on   24 A. I have not had my deposition taken.	1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		The state of the s
22 Health. 23 MR. ADAMS: Zach Adams on behalf of 24 Tucker Ellis or here from Tucker Ellis on 22 Q. Have you ever had your deposition 23 taken before? 24 A. I have not had my deposition taken.				_
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24 Tucker Ellis or here from Tucker Ellis on 24 A. I have not had my deposition taken.				
			24	A. I have not had my deposition taken.
	25	behalf of J&J and Janssen Pharmaceutical.	25	· · ·

5 (Pages 14 - 17)

1 A. I have not.

- Q. Okay. But you -- I understand -- I
- 3 assume you know the basic ground rules of --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- what we're doing here today?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. I'm not going to go through
- 8 the whole song and dance, because I assume that
- 9 you know what's going on, but if you have a
- 10 question, feel free to speak up.
- 11 A. I will. Thank you.
- 12 Q. The one thing I will say to you is
- 13 that I'm going to try to make my questions
- 14 understandable, but if I fail in that and
- 15 you -- you have a problem with one of my
- 16 questions, you think you don't understand it,
- 17 please speak up.
- 18 A. Sure.
- 19 Q. Because otherwise I'm going to
- 20 assume that you think -- at least you think you
- 21 know you understand the question and you're
- 22 trying to answer it.
- A. Okay.
- Q. And your lawyer may object at some
- 25 point to some of my questions. If they object,

1 that life to where I am now.

Q. Was there any other reason why you made the switch?

Page 20

- 4 A. It's a term-limited position, so
- 5 spending eight years in the deepest minority
- 6 the state's ever seen didn't really have a lot
- 7 of job prospects at the end of it, so it was a
- 8 really good opportunity for me.
  - Q. And I take it you're a Democrat?
- 10 A. Yes.

11

- Q. Now, before you were a legislator,
- 12 you were a prosecutor; is that right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And how many years were you a
- 15 prosecutor?
- 6 A. I was in the Mahoning County
- 17 Prosecutor's Office about six months right out
- 18 of -- right just fresh from the bar exam.
- I spent about seven and a half
- 20 years with the Summit County Prosecutor's
- 21 Office, and then about two and a half years
- 22 with the City of Akron Prosecutor's Office. So
- 23 just over a decade as a prosecutor.
- Q. And what kinds of cases did you 25 prosecute?

Page 19

- 1 you're still allowed to answer unless they
- 2 affirmatively instruct you not to.
- 3 Do you understand that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. Have you ever testified at
- 6 all --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 O. -- under oath?
- 9 In what situations have you
- 10 testified?
- 11 A. I've testified in grand jury
- 12 proceedings, in criminal trial, in a civil
- 13 injunction hearing, and multiple times in the
- 14 state House and senate committees here in Ohio.
- Q. And you're a former legislator; is
- 16 that correct?
- 17 A. It is.
- 18 Q. How long were you in the
- 19 legislature?
- 20 A. Just I served one full term and
- 21 then about four months of my second term.
- Q. And why did you leave the
- 23 legislature?
- A. The executive offered me a job, and
- 25 it was a good opportunity to transition from

- Page 21
- 1 A. Everything from a traffic violation 2 with the City of Akron to death penalty cases
- 3 with the Summit County Common Pleas, yes.
- 4 Q. Did you prosecute any drug cases?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. What kinds?
- 7 A. All kinds. Possession,
- 8 trafficking, deception to obtain dangerous
- 9 drugs, corruption of another with drugs. I
- 10 think it's fair to say any of the drug offenses
- 11 in the Ohio Revised Code I have prosecuted.
- 12 Q. Now, when you -- you said earlier
- 13 that you testified in grand jury proceedings.
- 14 Was that during the time when you were a
- 15 prosecutor?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And you said you've testified in a
- 18 civil injunction hearing. What was the subject
- 19 matter of that?
- A. It was when I was in the
- 21 legislature. It was a matter regarding the
- 22 Youngstown city public schools and sort of the
- 23 State takeover of -- of that school system.
- Q. Have you testified previously in
- 25 any case involving drugs?

Page 22	
1 A. No.	1 MS. WINNER: Understood.
2 MS. WINNER: I'd like to mark as	2 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. What
3 Exhibit 1 document entitled Second Amended	3 I'm sorry. What was the question?
4 Notice of Videotaped Deposition.	4 Q. The question was, what did you do
5	5 to prepare for the deposition?
6 (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 1,	6 A. Sure. So I met with the team of
7 Second Amended Notice of Videotaped	7 attorneys from Motley Rice seven or eight
8 30(b)(6) Deposition of the County of	8 times.
9 Summit, was marked for purposes of	9 I read, I believe, where I was up
10 identification.)	10 to about 14 transcripts that have previously
11	11 been taken regarding this case. I've reviewed
MS. WINNER: Actually, it's Second	12 documents.
13 Amended Notice of Videotaped 30(B)(6)	13 I've spoken to multiple people who
14 Deposition of the County of Summit.	14 are involved in gathering information regarding
Q. Have you seen this before?	15 the case.
16 A. Yes, I believe I have. I just want	Sat down and met with our budget
17 to make sure. I saw there were some	17 and finance director.
18 modifications to the ones I've seen.	18 I've met with Patrick Leonard, a
19 Yes, this looks yes.	19 detective for the Akron Police Department.
Q. I think that this is probably	Spoken with Lori Baker-Stella, who
21 modified from the version you saw in terms of	21 is a detective for the Summit County Sheriff's
22 the the date and location of the deposition.	22 Office.
A. Sure. Yes, yes.	23 Met extensively with our public
Q. Are you here today testifying in	<ul><li>24 safety director, Lori Pesci.</li><li>25 Met with Donna Skoda, the Summit</li></ul>
25 response to this notice?	25 Met with Donna Skoda, the Summit
Page 23	Page 25
1 A. Yes.	1 County Public Health director. 2 Just read a lot of documents.
2 Q. And you understand that you have 3 been designated by the County of Summit to	3 And frankly, I've been a public
4 testify on its behalf today?	4 servant in Summit County for over the last 13
5 A. Yes.	5 years, so I feel like my own personal
6 Q. What did you do to prepare for	6 experience really has prepared me in the best
7 today's deposition?	7 way to put that all into context.
8 MS. KEARSE: I'm just going to make	8 Q. Now, you said you read I'm
9 one note. There is a letter that gave specific	9 sorry. Did you finish your answer?
10 topics that she was being designated for, so	10 A. I think I think so, yes.
	· ·
11 it's not I think this still includes every	11 O. Okav. If I ever
11 it's not I think this still includes every 12 single topic, right?	11 Q. Okay. If I ever 12 A. Sure.
12 single topic, right?	12 A. Sure.
<ul><li>12 single topic, right?</li><li>13 MS. WINNER: That's correct.</li></ul>	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you,
<ul> <li>12 single topic, right?</li> <li>13 MS. WINNER: That's correct.</li> <li>14 MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated</li> </ul>	12 A. Sure.
<ul><li>12 single topic, right?</li><li>13 MS. WINNER: That's correct.</li></ul>	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure.
<ul> <li>single topic, right?</li> <li>MS. WINNER: That's correct.</li> <li>MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated</li> <li>cop topics that we shared in our letter of</li> </ul>	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure.
<ul> <li>single topic, right?</li> <li>MS. WINNER: That's correct.</li> <li>MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated</li> <li>cop topics that we shared in our letter of</li> <li>December 17, 2018.</li> </ul>	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure. 16 Q. You said you read 14
12 single topic, right? 13 MS. WINNER: That's correct. 14 MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated 15 cop topics that we shared in our letter of 16 December 17, 2018. 17 MS. WINNER: I think which was then	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure. 16 Q. You said you read 14 17 A. Uh-huh.
12 single topic, right? 13 MS. WINNER: That's correct. 14 MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated 15 cop topics that we shared in our letter of 16 December 17, 2018. 17 MS. WINNER: I think which was then 18 amended by an e-mail exchange when you added a	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure. 16 Q. You said you read 14 17 A. Uh-huh. 18 Q about 14 transcripts?
12 single topic, right? 13 MS. WINNER: That's correct. 14 MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated 15 cop topics that we shared in our letter of 16 December 17, 2018. 17 MS. WINNER: I think which was then 18 amended by an e-mail exchange when you added a 19 couple of others.	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure. 16 Q. You said you read 14 17 A. Uh-huh. 18 Q about 14 transcripts? 19 A. I think so.
12 single topic, right? 13 MS. WINNER: That's correct. 14 MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated 15 cop topics that we shared in our letter of 16 December 17, 2018. 17 MS. WINNER: I think which was then 18 amended by an e-mail exchange when you added a 19 couple of others. 20 MS. KEARSE: The the right.	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure. 16 Q. You said you read 14 17 A. Uh-huh. 18 Q about 14 transcripts? 19 A. I think so. 20 Q. Were these all deposition 21 transcripts? 22 A. Yes, ma'am.
12 single topic, right? 13 MS. WINNER: That's correct. 14 MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated 15 cop topics that we shared in our letter of 16 December 17, 2018. 17 MS. WINNER: I think which was then 18 amended by an e-mail exchange when you added a 19 couple of others. 20 MS. KEARSE: The the right. 21 The 4, 5, 6, 19. Yeah. 22 MS. WINNER: I'll I'll pull that 23 out and get it on the record later.	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure. 16 Q. You said you read 14 17 A. Uh-huh. 18 Q about 14 transcripts? 19 A. I think so. 20 Q. Were these all deposition 21 transcripts? 22 A. Yes, ma'am. 23 Q. Do you know whose depositions they
12 single topic, right? 13 MS. WINNER: That's correct. 14 MS. KEARSE: So it's the designated 15 cop topics that we shared in our letter of 16 December 17, 2018. 17 MS. WINNER: I think which was then 18 amended by an e-mail exchange when you added a 19 couple of others. 20 MS. KEARSE: The the right. 21 The 4, 5, 6, 19. Yeah. 22 MS. WINNER: I'll I'll pull that	12 A. Sure. 13 Q inadvertently interrupt you, 14 please speak up. 15 A. Sure. 16 Q. You said you read 14 17 A. Uh-huh. 18 Q about 14 transcripts? 19 A. I think so. 20 Q. Were these all deposition 21 transcripts? 22 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 (Pages 22 - 25)

Page 28 1 Barker's, Hylton Baker's. I read Julie Barnes, 1 County. 2 Donna Skoda, Tonya Block, Jackie Pollard, Q. Anyone else? 3 Dr. Lisa Kohler, Dr. George Sterbenz, Steve 3 A. In the last six weeks, not 4 Perch. I read most of Gary Guenther's from the 4 specifically for this deposition, but -- that I 5 medical examiner's office. Gertrude Wilms, 5 can think of right now. But again, my service 6 Brad Gessner. 6 in the community, the conversations that I've I feel like there's one more, but 7 had, the cases I have prosecuted, my experience 8 that's -- those are the ones I remember. 8 in the state House, all of that I feel I've Q. Were all the depositions you read 9 relied on in preparation for this deposition. 10 of people employed by either Summit or Akron? 10 Q. And then you say you've also A. No. Chad Garner, from the pharmacy 11 reviewed a number of documents. 12 board, was not. 12 A. Yes. 13 I think -- well, Hylton Baker is no 13 Q. Can you estimate about how many? 14 longer employed by the Summit County Sheriff \$ 14 Just in rough terms. 15 Office, but he was previously. 15 A. Well, not inclusive of pleadings, I Donna Skoda and Jackie Pollard and 16 don't know. Probably 100 documents. I -- I --17 Tonya Block aren't technically employees of 17 just looking at things, I've looked at what --18 Summit County because they are sort of a hybrid 18 oh, gosh, sorry -- what the attorneys have 19 with -- with public health and ADM. We do 19 shown me. I've looked at articles that I 20 their payroll, but they have different sort of 20 remember reading as, sort of, this crisis was 21 entities. 21 ongoing in our community. I looked at things 22 Q. Uh-huh. 22 that I remember speaking to me, articles or ADM A. We're -- we're all Summit County, 23 statistics. So I would say close to 100, but 24 but they don't report to the executive. And 24 that's -- I -- it's not my best asset is 25 likewise, all of these folks work in the county 25 guessing numbers on things like that. Page 27 Page 29 1 system or the city system. Yes. 1 Q. Did you take notes of any of the Q. Did you -- have you read any of the 2 conversations you had? 3 depositions of employees of Cleveland or 3 4 Cuyahoga County? 4 Q. Do you have those notes with you? 5 A. No, I do not. A. I have not. I have also read Brian 6 Nelson's, the finance director. 6 MS. WINNER: I would like to ask to Q. And when you said you met with the 7 have those notes produced, please. We will 8 budget and finance director, was that who you 8 follow up. 9 were referring to? 9 MS. KEARSE: I'm not going to -- I 10 A. Yes. 10 assume you'll follow up on that, yeah. Q. Did you take notes on any of the Q. Are there any other people you've 12 met with other than the ones you've named 12 documents you read? 13 previously? A. I highlighted portions or, you 13 14 know, question marks. And I'm a big sticky A. I've had internal communications 15 with the Summit County executive, with her 15 note believer, so I would tab something to 16 chief of staff, with some of the lawyers, our 16 remind myself to follow up or to look something 17 in-house lawyers. 17 up. Tend to read a lot on the treadmill, and 18 Q. Could you give me the name? 18 so it's not conducive to Google when you're on 19 A. Sure. I -- sure. Sorry. Bob 19 the treadmill. 20 Higham is a Summit County attorney. Deborah 20 Q. Apart from reading documents, did 21 Matz is our law director. Jason Dodson is the 21 you do any research like Googling things or

8 (Pages 26 - 29)

23

24

25

22 anything like that?

A. A few times, yes.

What did you research that way?

A. I remember reading Donna Skoda's

22 chief of staff. Ilene Shapiro is the county

23 executive. And I think I said before, Lori

24 Pesci is the Summit County public safety

25 director. She's also an attorney for the

1 transcript, and I did not know at that time

- 2 that we were using fentanyl strips. I didn't
- 3 really know what they were, and Donna explained
- 4 that pretty well. But I was very interested in
- 5 sort of where that idea came from, so I did a
- 6 little bit of research on that. I remember
- 7 that specifically.
- I looked up some different
- 9 terminology that I was not familiar with. MEE
- 10 [sic], I did not know what that meant, the
- 11 morphine equivalency. More just trying to look
- 12 up words I -- I didn't know or acronyms I was
- 13 unfamiliar with.
- 14 I did Google a couple of articles
- 15 that I remember being impactful to me and
- 16 wanting to go back and refresh why it mattered.
- 17 Things like that.
- Q. Is there anything else you did to
- 19 prepare for today other than what you've
- 20 already described?
- 21 A. No. Again, I really feel strongly
- 22 that the best preparation I've done for this is
- 23 living in this community for the last 20-plus
- 24 years and being in public service, sort of as
- 25 the recipient of the knowledge and wishes of my
  - Page 31

- 1 community.
- Q. Have you read the complaint in this 2 3 case?
- 4 A. I have.
- 5 O. When did you first read it?
- A. I first read -- I believe I saw a
- 7 draft of it before it was filed. Shortly
- 8 before it was filed. And then I read it after
- 9 it was filed. And then throughout preparation,
- 10 I've been reading parts of it thoroughly again
- 11 sort of, you know, bringing everything in full
- 12 context.
- 13 Q. Have you reviewed the interrogatory 14 responses that Summit has provided in this
- 15 case?
- A. Many of them. I don't know that
- 17 I've reviewed all of them, but I have reviewed 18 many.
- 19 Q. When did you do all this work that
- 20 we've just been talking about, apart from
- 21 living in the community?
- 22 A. Sure.
- 23 Q. Obviously you've been doing that
- 24 for a while, but --
- 25 Sure. So the -- the reading of

- Page 30 1 depositions and the meeting with the attorneys.
  - 2 We met during the workday. We met on the
  - 3 weekends.
  - 4 Sometimes I was able to block off
  - 5 blocks of hours during the workday to devote to
  - 6 door shut, don't come in unless it's an
  - 7 emergency, so that I could really focus on the
  - 8 reading.
  - 9 And frankly, I'm a 5:00 a.m. reader
  - 10 and a 10:00 p.m., so try and get about an hour
  - 11 in, like I said, on the treadmill in the
  - 12 morning and then a couple of hours in the
  - 13 evening.
  - 14 Q. So has this been over the last few
  - 15 weeks or the --
  - A. Probably --16
  - 17 Q. -- the last several months?
  - 18 A. Yeah. Probably six -- at least six
  - 19 weeks. I believe we really started -- I really
  - 20 started reading depositions and that sort of
  - 21 thing at the very beginning of December, but I
  - 22 had reviewed documents. I had certainly read
  - 23 the complaint and was aware of many of those
  - 24 beforehand, but -- but that sort of intensive
  - 25 preparation for about six weeks.
  - Page 33
  - Q. Well, turning back to -- to
    - 2 Exhibit 1, you understand that Summit County
    - 3 has designated you to testify on its behalf on
    - 4 certain topics in this notice, correct?
    - 5 A. Yes, ma'am.
    - 6 Q. And do you understand that this
    - 7 means that the testimony you're giving today
    - 8 represents the testimony of Summit County, not

    - 9 just your personal recollection or your
    - 10 personal opinions?
    - 11 A. Yes, ma'am.
    - 12 Q. Are you aware of which topics you
    - 13 have been asked to address?
    - 14 A. Yes.
    - 15 Q. Did the preparation that you've
    - 16 described cover all of those topics?
    - 17 A. Yes.
    - 18 Q. As you sit here now, do you feel
    - 19 qualified to testify as the representative of
    - 20 Summit County on all of the topics on which
    - 21 you've been designated?
    - 22 A. Absolutely.
    - 23 Q. Are there any exceptions?
    - 24 A. No.
    - 25 Q. Leaving aside your -- your

Page 36 1 professional experiences and your work, have 1 A. No. 2 there been any experiences in your personal 2 Q. Have you ever taken prescription 3 life that have affected your views about 3 opioids yourself? 4 prescription opioids? 4 A. Yes. A. My -- I don't know that I 5 MS. KEARSE: Objection. 6 understand what you're asking. 6 Q. For what? Q. Have you ever been affected 7 A. Post surg- --8 personally, for example, positively or 8 MS. KEARSE: I'm just going to 9 negatively, by prescription opioids? 9 instruct the answer -- you're free to answer A. I see. I have lost a friend who 10 that question if you want, but you also have 11 overdosed in 2016. I won't give a revisionist 11 your own personal privacy rights as well, so --12 history that we were extremely close at the 12 THE WITNESS: Okay. 13 time that he passed, but certainly we were in 13 MS. KEARSE: -- you can answer if 14 college. So, yes, I feel like that's a 14 you want. 15 personal -- a personal story that I -- that I 15 A. Post-surgery. 16 have. Q. And what did you take -- take it 16 17 for? I mean -- excuse me -- what did you take? 17 Q. Well, you say you lost a friend. 18 Was this friend lost to prescription opioids? A. I took OxyContin. I don't -- I A. He was lost to opioid addiction. 19 believe I took Percocet once, but it made me 20 O. And what -- what -- he overdosed? 20 very sick. 21 Yes. Q. Did the OxyContin help you or A. 21 22 22 whatever it was you took? O. And what did he overdose on? 23 A. I only took it, like, two -- I A. Heroin. 24 24 think I took two doses post-surgery. Yeah. I Q. Had he -- okay. So he -- he was 25 taking heroin at the time that he passed away; 25 was still pretty groggy from the anesthesia. Page 35 Page 37 1 is that correct? 1 Q. I take it you did not become 2 addicted? A. Yes. 3 Q. Are you aware of the history of --3 A. No. 4 of his addiction? 4 Did you take it as directed by your 5 doctor? A. Yes. Q. And what's the -- your basis for 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. I want to talk just a second about 7 that knowledge? A. He began using opioids in college 8 terminology just to make sure we're all on the 9 same page. 9 for injuries that he sustained playing sports 10 in college. 10 What do you understand an opioid to 11 be? Q. And how do you know that? 12 A. We were all very close, and the 12 A. A synthetic derivative of an 13 opiate, so a synthetic derivative of morphine 13 news of his death passed through our group of 14 or heroin. Sort of those naturally occurring 14 friends rather quickly. And there was a lot of 15 discussion about when it had started and things 15 opiates. 16 about, wish we -- you know, wish we had known. 16 Q. And what's an opiate? 17 Q. So this is something that somebody 17 A. It's essentially a drug that 18 directly attaches to receptors in our brains to 18 told you? 19 either relieve pain or produce a high. 19 A. Yes. 20 O. What is the difference between an 20 Q. And who told you that? A. Teammates, friends, the -- the sort 21 opiate and an opioid, in your understanding? 22 of college-kid community that we had created at 22 A. So they're really used 23 interchangeably in our community. 23 that time. Q. So this wasn't something that he 24 Q. That's what I thought, yeah.

10 (Pages 34 - 37)

A. But, you know, I believe the

25

25 himself told you?

Page 38 Page 40 1 definition to be opiates, a-t-e, is those sort 1 outweigh their risks, correct? 2 of origins, the opium, heroin, morphine. And A. I know they're tested by the FDA 3 and are -- go through some sort of approval 3 then opioids are sort of the synthetic 4 versions, Percocet, OxyContin, oxycodone, those 4 process. I'm definitely not incredibly well 5 types of things. But they are used very 5 versed on the FDA process. 6 interchangeably. Q. But they're regulated by the FDA 7 Q. So for today can we agree that 7 and the DEA? 8 we're not going to worry --8 A. Yes. 9 9 A. Sure. Q. And prescription opioids are 10 prescribed by doctors to treat medical 10 O. -- about that distinction? A. Absolutely. Of course. 11 conditions, correct? 11 A. They can be. 12 Q. What drugs are considered to be 12 13 opioids or opiates? 13 Q. Well, they're -- okay. And they A. Sure. So those ones that we've 14 are, in fact? 15 just named, OxyContin, oxycodone, Percocet, 15 MS. KEARSE: Objection. Form. 16 Opana, then opium, heroin, morphine. That's Q. They are, in fact, prescribed by 16 17 the -- that's the laundry list I can come up 17 doctors for medical purposes. 18 with. 18 A. They can be, yes. Q. Well, I'm just -- I just want to 19 19 How about fentanyl? Q. 20 Yes. Absolutely, yes. Thank --20 make sure we're not quibbling here. 21 How about carfentanil? Yes, some of it could be something 21 22 A. Yes. 22 that can be but never happens. It, in fact, 23 Q. Is cocaine an opioid? 23 happens that doctors do prescribe opioids for 24 24 medical conditions, correct? A. No. 25 25 Q. How about methamphetamine? Α. Yes. Page 41 Page 39 1 A. No. Not -- those two are not in Q. But opioids like heroin are illegal 2 and of themselves, only when mixed, yes. 2 to produce, distribute, and possess, correct? 3 Q. But they are sometimes mixed? 3 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 4 4 I'm sorry. Could you say that A. Yes. 5 5 again? And that's sometimes a problem? 6 Yes. Q. Heroin is illegal to produce, to A. 6 7 What about Xanax? 7 distribute, and to possess, correct? Q. 8 8 A. Correct, yes. A. 9 9 By the way, do you know who the Q. How about marijuana? 10 Defendants in this case are? 10 A. Do prescription -- does the term 11 A. I do. 12 "prescription opioid" have a meaning to you? 12 Q. Okay. And none of those Defendants 13 13 produces, distributes, or dispenses heroin, A. Yes. 14 Q. And what would be included in 14 correct? 15 prescription opioids? 15 A. No, but they do produce, distribute A. OxyContin, oxycodone, Percocet, 16 16 opioids. 17 Vicodin, Opana, Dilaudid. 17 Q. I understand that, but they don't Q. So those are the opioids that are 18 produce or distribute heroin, correct? 19 prescribed to people? 19 A. Correct. 20 20 Now, I've seen in the complaint --A. Yes. 21 Q. Do prescription opioids have 21 I'm sure you have too -- references to things 22 beneficial and lawful uses? 22 like an "opioid epidemic" and an "opioid 23 23 crisis." A. Yes. 24 Q. And they're tested and reviewed by 24 A. Uh-huh. 25 the FDA to make sure their benefits out---25 Are those terms that are familiar

Page 42 Page 44 1 to you? And then as the legislature and A. Yes. 2 regulations sort of began to ratchet down Q. And what does Summit County mean by 3 3 and -- and monitor more closely, OARRS became 4 those terms in its complaint? 4 more accessible and more usable for a wider A. I think any time there is an 5 variety of folks in the county, that's when we 6 individual suffering from addiction, that is a 6 started to see the shift from people who could 7 crisis in that person's family, and that 7 no longer get the opioids that they had become 8 becomes a crisis in their community. And when 8 so addicted to. They couldn't get a \$40, 40 9 you add all of those crises up, you have an 9 milligram pill anymore, but they could easily 10 epidemic. 10 get a \$10 bag of heroin, and so this -- this 11 You know, the -- the root of the 11 opioid addiction created space and created the 12 term really comes down to this -- this illness 12 market for the always illegal heroin, morphine, 13 or plague occurring in a much more rapid or 13 those types of things. 14 increased fashion than should be in a 14 So we really started to see the 15 population. So all of those crises add up to 15 increase from the late 2000s into the early 16 the epidemic that our county is facing. 16 teens. And we began to take notice of how many 17 Q. What drugs are involved in the 17 folks were seeking recovery treatment through 18 opioid epidemic, as you used that term? 18 ADM and the public health department in the A. Right. So all of the drugs that 19 early teens. 20 we've talked about, Vicodin, Percocet, 20 We started to see an increase of 21 OxyContin, oxycodone, and the naturally 21 NAS in our babies being born. We started to 22 occurring ones, heroin, morphine, and the 22 see an increased need for funding to low level 23 introduction of fentanyl and carfentanil into 23 felony defense. We started to see an increase 24 our community. 24 in our jail population. And that started to 25 Is cocaine part of the opioid 25 really bloom, for lack of a better word, into Page 43 Page 45 1 epidemic? 1 '14, '15, '16, '17, where we literally had A. It has become sort of this 2 bodies stacking up at the county medical 3 stepsister to the epidemic because of the 3 examiner's office due to overdose. 4 shifts in the way people are using opioids. Q. Okay. Is there a specific time, a 4

5 Cocaine has been used more recently in

6 conjunction with opioids.

Q. Is -- in your understanding, is the 8 opioid epidemic what this lawsuit is about?

A. This lawsuit is -- is about the 10 aggregate harm that's been caused by the 11 manufacture and distribution of opioids into

12 our community.

13 When did the opioid epidemic begin?

14 A. Opioids have always been in our 15 community, but I believe we really saw an 16 uptick in the presence of diverted pills and 17 use really started to come along in the late

18 2000s.

19 And certainly we noticed that in 20 the prosecutor's office where folks were being 21 arrested and having one or two pills in their 22 pocket, folks were being arrested for deception 23 to obtain a dangerous drug or forging drug 24 documents. We started to see that uptick in 25 the late -- in the late 2000s.

5 date, where you see a demarcation between when

6 there was -- wasn't an epidemic, opioid

7 epidemic, to when there was?

A. Well, I -- I think there are many

9 factors that exacerbate -- exacerbated it. The

10 onset of the fifth vital sign becoming -- you

11 know, pain becoming the fifth vital sign

12 certainly created space for this flood of pills

13 that came into our community.

14 It's hard to pick one specific day 15 because there's this level of legality that

16 surrounds prescription pills that does not

17 surround the trip -- the typical drug cases

18 that we encountered in Summit County.

19 So this flood of pills came into

20 our community in -- in sort of record fashion,

21 so I -- I couldn't say one particular day in

22 time. It is a wave that is growing and growing

23 and continues to grow.

24 Q. When was the -- when did you first 25 become -- personally become aware that there

D 16	2 40
Page 46	Page 48  1 Document Titled, "Drug Thread
1 was a problem?	
2 A. Personally? I first became aware 3 that there was a real difference in some of the	2 Assessment, Summit County, Ohio,"
	3 SUMMIT_000023567 to 000023648, was
4 cases I was seeing. I was seeing, instead of	4 marked for purposes of
5 detectives who were bringing in crack cases or	5 identification.)
6 things like that, we started to see a lot of	6
7 pill cases; a lot of defendants without a prior	7 Q. Have you seen this before?
8 record, being arrested for possession of	8 A. I have.
9 oxycodone, OxyContin, Percocets. And we	9 Q. Is this one of the documents you
10 started to see, in the late 2000s, this	10 reviewed?
11 increase in cases of deception to obtain and	11 A. It is.
12 forging drug documents.	12 Q. Are you familiar with Captain
These folks had become so addicted	13 Baker?
14 that they were resorting to, you know, trying	14 A. I am.
15 to write false prescriptions, trying to obtain	15 Q. What was Captain Baker's position?
16 these pills in a different manner.	16 A. He was the captain I think that
Q. And when was it that you started	17 was his highest rank. He was the captain
18 seeing this?	18 assigned to the Summit County Drug Unit with
19 A. In the late 2000s is really	19 the Summit County Sheriff's Office.
20 Q. 2007? 2008? Somewhere in there?	Q. And in that position, was he
21 A. I I remember it steadily	21 familiar with the drug enforcement situation in
22 growing. I can recall being in 2009, I was	22 Summit County?
23 the grand jury prosecutor, and I recall seeing	23 A. Yes.
24 many of those cases in sort of a way that I had	Q. If you turn to page 62 of this
25 not previously.	25 document oh, first of all, this this
Page 47  1 Q. Do you think, at the time that you  2 personally perceived that there was a problem,  3 do you think that generally there was an  4 understanding in Summit County at that time  5 that there was a problem?  6 A. Calling it a problem, I think at  7 that time, as a prosecutor, I was aware that  8 this was a change that we were perceiving. I	Page 49  1 document appears on its face to to dated 2 to approximately 2005. It says it's an 3 addendum to a 2005 Justice Assistance Grant 4 application. 5 A. Okay. 6 Q. Do you see that at the top? 7 A. I do. 8 Q. And would you agree with me that
9 think at that time the ADM Board and Summit 10 County Public Health started to perceive that 11 the people seeking treatment were coming in for 12 opioid addiction in greater numbers than they 13 had previously seen. I think our hospitals saw 14 that there were more babies being born with NAS 15 than they had previously seen. 16 And at that point, I think, you 17 know, there were some some concerns, but not	9 this this document dates to 2005? 10 A. I'm sure it was in 2005 or 2006. 11 Typically, when we apply for grants, sometimes 12 the addendums are filed the year after. 13 Q. Have you ever discussed this 14 document with Captain Baker? 15 A. I have not. Not, you know, 16 personally discussed it with him, no. 17 Q. Was he one of the people you talked
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13 (Pages 46 - 49)

Page 50 Page 52 1 a prosecutor? 1 Is that a correct statement, as far A. I did, yes. 2 as you were aware? 3 Q. If you would turn to page 62 --3 A. I just want to read it again. It's 4 A. Uh-huh. 4 a long sentence. 5 Q. -- of this document, there's a 5 Sure. 6 section on pharmaceuticals. Do you see that? 6 Yes, I would agree with that. 7 7 Q. So again, this is -- this is 8 Q. And the first thing that is said 8 information that was known to Summit County in 9 here is that the level of threat is very high. 9 2005, correct? 10 10 A. Yes. We were starting to become Q. And do you agree that that was a 11 very aware that pills were beginning to flood 11 12 true statement? 12 our community. 13 A. I -- I don't know -- I'd have to Q. And the next sentence goes on to 14 look at this a little bit more thoroughly. I 14 say, quote, "In a sampling of data from the 15 don't know what the scale is. I -- I wouldn't 15 Akron Police Department's narcotics unit 16 speak to -- to know what Captain Baker saw as 16 diversion division during the first quarter of 17 very high or extremely high or -- I don't know 17 2004, the unit investigated 60 new diversion 18 that. 18 cases, or one case every day and a half," end 19 Q. Do you have any reason to think 19 auote. 20 that this characterization of the level of 20 Is that an accurate statement, as 21 threat of pharmaceuticals in 2005 or 2006, 21 far as you were aware? 22 whenever he wrote this, was very high? 22 A. I assume that the Akron Police A. Well, certainly he turned out to be 23 narcotics unit can provide the data that would 24 right, so, no. 24 back that up. I can't imagine there would be 25 The first sentence under "Level of 25 any reason that Captain Baker would have Page 51 Page 53 1 threat" says, "The diversion of narcotics and 1 grabbed that number out of thin air. 2 pain analgesics in Summit County continues to Q. If you then go on to the whole next 3 increase." 3 section, "Associated Crimes and Violence." Do 4 4 you see that later in the page? A. Uh-huh. 5 Do you see that? 5 O. A. I do. 6 A. Yes, I do. 6 Q. And it says, quote, "Criminal 7 And was that a correct statement in O. 7 actions associated with pharmaceutical 8 2005? 8 diversion in Summit County include burglaries 9 A. I'm sure that it was. 9 and robberies of drugstores. Several pharmacy 10 And then it then goes on to refer 10 robberies have occurred in Summit County. Most 11 to some of the -- the drugs --11 notable was a man seeking OxyContin," end 12 A. Yes. 12 quote. 13 O. -- correct? 13 Is that a truthful statement, to 14 And then under "Availability," he 14 your knowledge? 15 goes on to say, quote, "While there are no 15 A. Yes, but certainly additional 16 conclusive estimates as to the total amount of 16 crimes began to happen as well. We prosecuted 17 diverted prescription narcotics, depressants, 17 robberies not just of pharmacies, but 18 individuals were robbed because someone in the 18 and stimulants available in the drug markets of 19 Summit County, it is known that legitimate 19 community found out that they had opioids in 20 their home for -- or were prescribed opioids. 20 commercial disbursal of prescription 21 pharmaceuticals distributed to pharmacies, 21 And there were particular cases where, you 22 hospitals, and practitioners has increased 22 know, folks were robbed at gunpoint for these

14 (Pages 50 - 53)

23 because of their street value at that time and

24 because of the overwhelming demand for these

23 sharply over the past four years, thereby

25 diversion and abuse."

24 making more of the drugs available to criminal

25 pills.

1 Q. And this was -- again, this was 2 back in 2005 when he wrote this report?

A. He wrote this report in 2005, yes. But these cases that he's talking

- 5 about, those continued to increase. Where it
- 6 may have been a pharmacy or two in 2005, by the
- 7 late 2000s opioids were so in demand and were
- 8 becoming so much less available through the
- 9 normal courses, folks were resorting to really
- 10 desperate measures to get these pills.
- 11 Q. The -- when you say that -- that
- 12 people resorting to -- to desperate measures to
- 13 obtain the pills as they were becoming less
- 14 available, are you aware of any statistical
- 15 studies that were done in Summit County to
- 16 confirm that that was the reason for the
- 17 change?

4

- 18 A. I don't need a statistical study.
- 19 I saw it. I -- I had these cases in front of
- 20 me. We had these victims who had been
- 21 prescribed, who would come in and talk about
- 22 how they'd had guns pointed in their face.
- But the most important thing to
- 24 them was not the measure of justice that the
- 25 criminal justice system could provide, but

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1 2010 sort of starts what I call the early 2 teens.

- 3 Q. Now, did you see Captain Baker's
- 4 testimony in his deposition that he has been
- 5 investigating crimes relating to unlawful
- 6 trafficking in prescription opioids for
- 7 decades?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And do you have any reason to doubt
- 10 that that's correct?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. The pharmaceutical -- the -- is
- 13 the -- the prevalence of prescription opioid
- 14 crime is, in fact, less today than it was in
- 15 the late 2000s, is it not?
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 17 A. The prevalence of crime?
- 18 Q. Crime relating specifically to
- 19 prescription opioids --
- 20 A. Are you --
- Q. -- is less today?
- A. Are you talking about violent
- 23 crime? Or are you talking about the criminal
- 24 act of obtaining --
- 25 Q. The criminal -- the criminal acts

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4

- 1 getting a note from the prosecutor saying, you
- 2 know, "It's okay to prescribe him more pills.
- 3 They really were stolen." The animalistic need
- 4 for these opioids overwhelmed the victim's
- 5 desire to seek justice.
- 6 Q. So you say there were -- there were
- 7 occasions that you saw when that was the case,
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. Absolutely.
- 10 Q. But my -- my question is -- is if
- 11 one tries to extrapolate that to the community,
- 12 are you aware of any statistical studies or
- 13 research studies that were done to confirm that
- 14 these weren't just some selected cases that you
- 15 saw, but more generic?
- 16 A. I don't know if the Summit
- 17 County -- I'd -- I'd have to refer back to the
- 18 Summit County Sheriff's Office, their annual
- 19 report, to see if there were statistics done.
- 20 I don't know of any.
- 21 Q. Now, just to clarify. When you
- 22 talk about the late 2000s, are you talking
- 23 about -- when you say the 2000s, are you
- 24 talking about the decade of 2001 to 2009?
- 25 A. Yes, yes. And then sort of

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Page 56

- 1 relating to obtaining and using prescription 2 opioids illegally.
- 3 A. Is down from when?
  - Q. The late 2000s. The period you
- 5 were talking about.
- 6 A. I -- I don't know the answer to
- 7 that. I -- I would -- I would guess that there
- 8 is because you're -- you're using the term
- 9 "prescription opioids." Certainly we've seen a
- 10 dramatic increase in opioids, including heroin
- 11 and -- and fentanyl and -- and those types of
- 12 other non-prescribed opioids.
- So I -- I guess to parse that out,
- 14 there are probably less deceptions to obtain a
- 15 dangerous drug, but there are certainly more
- 16 possessions of opioids, including heroin,
- 17 Percocet, Vicodin, all of those.
- 18 Q. But I'm asking specifically about
- 19 prescription opioids. Is the amount of -- and
- 20 am I correct that you're saying you don't know
- 21 one way or the other whether the incidents --
  - A. I'm sure you're right. I'm sure
- 23 you are right, because of tools like OARRS and
- 24 more public awareness now, certainly, than
- 25 there was then, and, quite frankly, the

1 overwhelming community knowledge that these 1 had not -- we were sort of looking at these as 2 are, in fact, dangerous drugs, that these are, 2 individual -- individual in our lane, doing our 3 in fact, addictive, which was information we 3 thing: prosecutors prosecuting the cases, ADM 4 really didn't have in the late 2000s. 4 treating folks, public health offering Q. And when -- when did that public 5 services. 6 awareness come into being? 6 We did not really identify the one A. I think we really did start to see 7 common theme in all of this, which was the 8 ADM -- and I'm sorry. Alcohol is -- okay 8 flood of prescription opioids into Summit 9 as ADM to use? Okay. 9 County, until the early teens. The ADM Board, Summit County Public 10 Q. The -- when did you do the 11 Health started to reach out to physicians. We 11 education in schools through public health and 12 had law enforcement officers who were meeting 12 the ADM Board? 13 with physicians to try and educate them about A. That began -- they -- they have 14 what drug-seeking behavior looked like. We 14 always been in the schools --15 wanted to educate our physicians about how 15 O. Uh-huh. 16 incredibly addictive these were and what the 16 A. -- talking about addiction and 17 results would be, which would be that these 17 prevention and -- and other healthy --18 folks end up with needles in their arms. 18 Q. But when did they --19 19 Q. When did that happen? A. -- lifestyle choices. 20 A. That started to happen -- I want to 20 Q. When did they talk about 21 say that -- that the first, like, continuing 21 prescription opioids? 22 medical education piece was, I want to say, the A. I believe I saw something as early 22 23 early teens. Perhaps '13 or '14 I can recall 23 as 2011. I'd -- I'd have to double-check that 24 Dr. Doug Smith, Dr. Kohler really starting to 24 to be sure. 25 talk to the medical community. 25 MS. WINNER: I'd like to ask the Page 59 Page 61 But even leading up to that, I know 1 reporter to mark as Exhibit 4 a document 2 that Detective Leonard and some of his 2 entitled "Ohio Office of Criminal Justice 3 colleagues were meeting with emergency room 3 Services 2016 Semiannual Performance Report.' 4 physicians trying to educate them about, you 4 Exhibit 3. Just to correct that, it's 5 know, sort of what was happening in the street 5 Exhibit 3. 6 so that -- that those physicians could be 6 7 aware. 7 (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 3, Q. So you were seeing -- am I correct 8 Document Titled "Ohio Office of 9 of just putting two pieces together, that you 9 Criminal Justice Services 2016 10 were seeing significant criminal activity and 10 Semi-Annual Performance Report," 11 other problems relating to abuse of SUMMIT000020314 to 000020323, was 11 12 prescription opioids by the late 2000s, but 12 marked for purposes of 13 that the public education efforts relating to 13 identification.) 14 that did not start until several years later? 14 - - - - -15 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 15 Q. Have you ever seen this before? 16 A. I don't think that's true because I 16 A. I don't --17 know -- I know -- I guess I was thinking 17 MS. FLOWERS: Do you have any extra 18 specifically about educating physicians. 18 copies, Counselor? I know that at the time we were 19 MS. WINNER: I don't know if we 20 already doing some education in schools through 20 have any other copies. 21 21 public health and through the ADM Board, and MS. FLOWERS: Just the one? Okay. 22 the -- the task force did not begin until 2014. 22 A. I don't know that I have seen this 23 So I would say we were seeing an uptick in 23 before. I don't think I have. 24 criminal activity. But again, we still had not 24 Q. The -- the name that appears on the 25 really identified the head of the monster. We 25 cover page of this is Captain Matt Paolino.

16 (Pages 58 - 61)

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Page 62 Page 64 1 Sure. 1 this. Α. 2 Do you know who he is? 2 Q. I see what you mean. Okay. 3 A. So -- so this would be the Summit 3 I do. 4 4 County Drug Unit specifically, because these And who is he? A. He is the captain in charge of the 5 5 seem rather low. They would not be inclusive 6 Summit County Drug Unit currently. 6 of the outside agencies' arrests or Q. And you see that this is -- at the 7 7 indictments. 8 bottom of the first page, it says this is for Q. Okay. If you then turn to a couple 9 more pages into question, there's a section on 9 the reporting period of July 1st to December 10 31st, 2016? 10 pharmaceutical diversion. I think it's the --11 A. I see that. 11 one, two -- sixth page into the exhibit. Q. And then if you turn to the second 12 A. I see. Fifth, sure. 12 13 page of the exhibit --13 Q. And then Question 5 asks for the 14 A. Uh-huh. Yes. 14 number of people indicted for pharmaceutical 15 Q. -- under Question 3, there's a -- a 15 crimes. 16 question for the number of persons indicted for 16 Do you see that? 17 17 each type of drug. A. I do. 18 A. Okay. 18 Q. And then, on that page, and then on 19 Q. Do you see that? 19 the following pages, there's figures provided 20 A. I do. 20 for those as well. 21 Q. And the instructions say that it's 21 A. Uh-huh. I see that. 22 not to include pharmaceuticals. That's a Q. And the numbers of people indicted 22 23 separate question. So would --23 for pharmaceutical crime is considerably 24 A. Okay. 24 less --25 25 -- this is just the Α. Sure. Page 65 Page 63 1 non-pharmaceutical drugs. 1 O. -- correct? 2 A. Sure. But, again, I don't know --2 A. Okay. 3 Q. And then he reports figures for 3 I'm sorry. I don't know that I've seen this 4 particular report. 4 indictments for a variety of drugs, including 5 cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine. So the -- the Summit County Drug A. Yes. I see that. 6 Unit task force are not the only Summit County 7 7 officers who make these arrests or provide Q. Do you have any reason to question 8 the accuracy of these figures? 8 testimony for these indictments. You know, 9 there -- there is an entire patrol division who A. I don't have any reason to question 10 the accuracy. I would wonder -- this is 10 have arrest power and who routinely arrest for 11 these types of crimes as well. 11 certainly not all cases indicted in Summit 12 12 County. This might be the lead detective was a That's -- these don't include, 13 certainly, the more than 400 police officers 13 Summit County Drug Unit detective, but this 14 for the City of Akron and -- and the over a 14 would not be reflective of all of the 15 trafficking in marijuana or possession of 15 thousand police officers we have countywide. 16 marijuana cases in Summit County for that time 16 So, again, I'm not exactly sure what this 17 period. 17 report is produced for, but. Q. Well, this is -- does not include 18 18 Q. Well, let me ask you this. Is 19 there any reason to think that in those other 19 misdemeanors. 20 jurisdictions the relative ratio of indictments A. Sure. And -- and -- so there are 21 31 communities that make up Summit County, and 21 for these other drugs as compared to 22 many of them have their own police department, 22 prescription pharmaceuticals is any different? 23 and so, you know, whether Hudson or Stow police 23 A. Is there any reason to think the 24 department arrested someone for trafficking in 24 ratio is different? Perhaps, because of the

25 number of pharmacies that exist in the city of

25 marijuana, I assume those are not reflected in

Page 66 Page 68 1 Akron. It's our most populate, and it's the 1 an attachment to this e-mail. If you can turn 2 county seat. It has nearly half the population 2 a few pages in, at the top it says "National 3 making up Summit County. 3 Drug Threat Survey, 2015." 4 A. Okay. 4 So, you know, whereas in some of 5 these smaller jurisdictions there might be one 5 Q. Have you seen this before? I don't believe I've seen this 6 pharmacy, in Akron there are hundreds. So I --6 7 e-mail. 7 you know, if some of these are -- I see, like, 8 pharmacy technicians, pharmacists, things like 8 O. How about the attachment? The 9 National Drug Threat Survey, 2015? 9 that listed, certainly there are -- there are A. No, I don't believe I've seen this. 10 far more pharmacies in Akron and then Barberton 10 11 and Cuyahoga Falls than there are in, say, for 11 Q. And again, the name that is listed 12 example, Mogadore or Lakemore. 12 here is Matthew Paolino, correct? 13 Q. Do you think that the amount of 13 A. Correct. 14 felony indictments for crime relating to 14 Q. Do you know what the National Drug 15 Threat Survey is? 15 prescription pharmaceuticals is significantly 16 greater in places that have more pharmacies? A. It appears to be -- well, no, not 17 without reading this. I don't know. 17 A. I -- I -- again, I'm -- I'm not --18 Q. Okay. If you would turn to the 18 I would need a minute to -- to read this report 19 second page of the survey, to -- the answer to 19 to see what it's looking at. 20 Question 1a. 20 I'm looking at words that are 21 listed on here that says pharmacists, pharmacy 21 A. Okay. 22 And the first question, it says, 22 techs, and I'm seeing zero. So I'm not sure 23 exactly what this report is or why it was 23 "Over the past year, has your agency 24 experienced a significant change in a drug 24 produced, so I would -- because I need to 25 trafficking attribute (availability, demand, 25 clarify. Page 67 Page 69 Q. So you're not familiar with this 1 distribution, production, transportation) for 1 2 any of the drugs listed?" 2 document? 3 A. I -- I'm sorry. I don't believe 3 Do you see that? 4 A. I do. 4 I've ever seen it. 5 O. And then on -- then there are a 5 MS. KEARSE: Is this a good time 6 number of drugs listed, and for each of these 6 for a break? 7 7 categories he had to fill out whether it was MS. WINNER: Sure. 8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record 8 increasing, decreasing, the same, or N/A. 9 Do you see that? 9 at 9:28. 10 10 (A recess was taken.) A. I see -- I see that. Q. And so, for example, for heroin, he 11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record at 11 12 9:42. 12 put down, "Availability is increasing, demand MS. WINNER: I'd like to ask the 13 is increasing, distribution is increasing, 13 14 transportation is the same." 14 reporter to mark as Exhibit 4 an e-mail from 15 Matthew Paolino with attachments. The first 15 A. I see that. Q. And then a few lines down, for 16 production number is SUMMIT 000072535. 16 17 17 controlled prescription drugs, he's got, 18 "Availability as decreasing, demand is the 18 (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 4, 19 same, distribution is decreasing, and 19 10/6/2014 E-Mail Chain Re: 2015 20 National Drug Threat Survey, with 20 transportation is the same." 21 21 Attachments, SUMMIT 000072535 to Do you see that? 22 000072541, was marked for purposes 22 A. I do. 23 23 Q. Do you have any reason to doubt of identification.) 24 24 whether he was correct about this? Q. And my questions actually relate to 25 No, because we know that the peak 25

18 (Pages 66 - 69)

Page 70 Page 72 1 of availability of opioid pills in Summit 1 years has included --2 County, I believe, reached its peak in 2012, so Q. Drugs other than prescription 3 certainly there would have been less in 2015. 3 opioids, correct? 4 Q. And then, under "Drug availability" A. Yes. 5 in Question 2, do you see that? The level --5 Q. It's included heroin, for example? A. Yes, I see. 6 7 7 Q. -- of availability, he -- he marks Q. And it's also included fentanyl and 8 for controlled prescription drugs was low. 8 carfentanil? Wait. Did you move to Question 2? It has, but those really have --O. Ouestion 2. 10 their prevalence has increased because of the 10 A. Okay. I see. And I'm sorry. 11 space created by the prescription opioids. 11 12 The -- say that last part. 12 Q. But that's -- I mean, that's -- I 13 Q. The availability for controlled 13 understand that that's your position. 14 prescription drugs, the availability he My question is, are, in fact, 15 indicated was low. 15 fentanyl and carfentanil a significant part of 16 Do you see that? 16 the problem? 17 A. I do see that. 17 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. Q. And was that correct in 2015, as A. Significant, I don't -- I don't 18 18 know how you use the word "significant." 19 far as you're aware? 19 20 A. It was certainly lower than it had 20 To me, carfentanil and fentanyl 21 been. 21 don't come into Summit County unless the space 22 22 has been created by 39 million pills in 2012 Q. But do you disagree that it was 23 low? and in 2010. 24 A. I will just certainly say it was Q. And what's your basis for that? 25 lower than it had been. And I think when we 25 A. Everything I've seen in the last 13 Page 71 Page 73 1 look at how readily they were available prior 1 years of public service, everything that I've 2 to 2015, it was a marked difference because of 2 read in preparation for this deposition today. 3 the availability of OARRS for use by physicians 3 O. So that's --4 and pharmacists and law enforcement. 4 A. There's --So I -- I won't disagree with Q. -- that's -- that's an opinion you 6 Paolino, but it was -- I would -- I would 6 would have formed based on the things you've 7 certainly believe that that is one of the 7 read? 8 factors that went into his marking this as low, A. That is an opinion of the County. 9 was because of how much lower it had become. 9 That is an opinion shared by public health, by 10 Q. Did you discuss that with him? 10 ADM, by the executive's office, by everyone who

A. I did not. 11

12 O. So you don't know what was in his

13 mind when he marked it as low?

A. I don't know what was in his mind

15 when he marked any of the things we've just

16 talked about.

17 Q. Was he qualified to fill out this 18 questionnaire?

19 A. Absolutely.

20 Q. Now, the problem with opioids in

21 Summit County in the last several years has

22 included drugs other than prescription opioids,

23 correct?

25

24 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

The problem in the last several

11 has been impacted by this plague.

12 It is -- it is -- we know that 80

13 percent of our heroin users start with

14 prescription opioids.

15 Q. How do you know that?

16 A. There's research to back it up.

17 The articles that I've read that talk about

18 when folks self-report, in talking with Donna

19 Skoda, in being at Opiate Task Force meetings

20 where the dashboard data is put up on slides

21 that are 10 feet wide to see that when folks

22 are coming in, that's how they've started.

23 Q. Where does the 80 percent number

24 come from?

25 The article that I read, it was

1 produced -- it was provided to me by Summit

- 2 County Public Health, Rich Marountas. I can't
- 3 recall the title of it.
- But also there have been
- 5 presentations done by Dr. Doug Smith, who's
- 6 deposition I also read -- I remembered that
- 7 over the break -- from ADM, where he talks
- 8 about how the receptors in the brain are set up
- 9 to receive these opioids.
- And we know that when pills became 11 less available -- less readily available and
- 12 much more expensive, it created the space for
- 13 heroin, which created the space for fentanyl
- 14 and carfentanil.
- Q. Let me go back. I want to go back 15
- 16 to the 80 percent. You said the 80 percent --
- 17 you got the 80 percent from an article. Was
- 18 this an -- what -- do you know the name of the
- 19 article?
- 20 A. No. I -- I can't -- I can see it
- 21 in a binder. I can't recall the name of it.
- 22 But that's not the first time I've heard it.
- 23 In fact, that was something that I
- 24 specifically -- you had asked had I Googled
- 25 things or anything like that.
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- It was a -- it was a very specific
- 2 discussion I'd had with Donna Skoda and with
- 3 counsel, frankly, because it was such a -- it
- 4 was something that I felt so inherently I knew
- 5 that I wanted to make sure that I had the right
- 6 statistics and the right research to back that
- 7 up. Because it's something that certainly we
- 8 know, and it's one of those things, how do you
- 9 know you know? But there is research to back
- 10 that up.
- 11 Q. Well --
- 12 A. And certainly Doug Smith, Donna
- 13 Skoda, who are experts in the community, agree 13
  - Q. Well, does the article -- you don't
- 15 remember specifically what the article was. Is
- 16 that article just about -- is it about Summit
- 17 County specifically?
- A. No, not specifically. However,
- 19 Doug and Donna's research backs that up as 20 well.
- 21 Q. They have -- what is -- what is the
- 22 nature of their research?
- 23 They treat people. They --
- 24 Q. But how did they develop this 80
- 25 percent statistic? Have they actually done a

- 1 study that says 80 percent of the people
  - 2 started on prescription opioids?
  - A. The data dashboard that's readily
  - 4 available on Summit County's Public Health 5 reflects that.
  - 6 Q. It specifically reflects 80 percent
  - 7 of the people. They know how 80 percent of the 8 people started.
  - 9 A. That -- as I sit here today,
- 10 that's -- yes. That's what I believe, yes.
  - Q. And what is the source of
- 12 information? How do they know that that's how
- 13 they started?
- 14 A. Because folks report it. Not every
- 15 person who comes in for treatment wants to talk
- 16 about how they started, and, quite frankly,
- 17 when we're treating people and trying to save
- 18 lives, we're going to treat them right then.
- 19 So I know that when Donna was deposed, that
- 20 that discussion was also had.
- 21 Q. So there are some people that you
- 22 know did not start with prescription opioids,
- 23 correct?
- 24 A. I don't know anyone who started
- 25 with heroin.

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- Q. Well, 80 percent is less than 100 1 2 percent, correct?
- A. Correct. Those are people who
- 4 report. So that 80 percent could just be the
- 5 20 percent we don't know. Perhaps they did.
- 6 Perhaps they started with something else. But
- 7 we can't definitively say what they started 8 with.
- 9 Q. So -- all right. But it -- you
- 10 accept that at least it's possible that at
- 11 least 20 percent of people did not start with
- 12 prescription opioids?
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 14 A. I know that addiction is a
- 15 progressive disease, and that it would be
- 16 incredibly uncommon for someone who had not
- 17 already become addicted to an opium derivative
- 18 to go straight to the street and shoot heroin.
- Q. How many -- how long has there --19
- 20 has heroin addiction existed in Summit County?
- 21 A. I'm sure heroin addiction in some
- 22 form has existed for decades, but certainly not
- 23 to the level we saw explode in '14, '15 and
- 24 '16.
- 25 Q. Okay. But those people who were

1 addicted to heroin in 1980, did they start with 2 prescription opioids?

A. I -- I don't know if they did. If 4 you're talking about, you know, folks who were

5 using heroin as a result of coming back from

6 Vietnam, that sort of thing, I mean, those are 7 certainly very different. It's a very

8 different environment.

Q. Is the -- what about people who 10 were addicted to heroin in 1992? Did they 11 start with prescription opioids?

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. How about people who were addicted 14 to heroin in 2000? Were they -- did they start

15 with prescription opioids?

A. I'm sure a large portion did,

17 because that is after prescription opioids were

18 being directly marketed to physicians and

19 consumers.

20 Q. Do you have any other reason for

21 believing that -- giving me a different answer

22 as to 199- -- for -- a different answer for

23 1992 than you did for 2000?

24 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

25 A. Can -- I don't think I understand 1 dive is taken as far as, did you get it from

2 your doctor or did you get it through

3 diversion? I mean, certainly the argument can

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4 be made that anybody who did get it from a

5 doctor, whether they got good information about

6 how addictive it was, whether they could, you

7 know, form a habit from it, I -- I don't know.

Q. Okay. Just to be clear, because

9 you sort of wandered around a little bit with

10 that answer, you do not know what percentage of

11 the people who become addicted to prescription

12 opioids started with a prescription they got

13 from their doctor?

14

16

24

MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

15 A. I do not know.

Q. What percentage of overdoses over

17 the past five years in Summit County have been

18 of people overdosing on prescription opioids? 19

A. On prescription opioids?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. I don't know the exact percentage.

22 Q. It's pretty small, is it not?

23 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

A. Pretty small I don't think is a

25 fair estimate. If it was your family member,

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1 what you're asking.

Q. Well, I asked you how the -- I

3 asked you about people in 1992, and you said

4 you didn't know. And I asked you about people

5 in 2000, did they start with prescription

6 opioids, and you said you were sure a large 7 portion did because -- because of the marketing

8 that had occurred.

Is there any other reason that you 10 have for -- for giving me a different answer as

11 to 2000 than for 1992?

12 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

13 A. I don't -- I don't know. I don't

14 know how to answer that question.

15 Q. Okay. Now, of the people who

16 started with prescription opioids, what

17 percentage of those started with opioids that

18 they were prescribed by a doctor themselves? A. How many -- how many people started

20 with an opioid that a doctor prescribed them?

21 Is that what you're asking?

22 Q. To them.

23 To them. A.

24 Q. To them.

25 I don't know that that deep of a 1 it would certainly be far too much.

2 Q. Well, any -- I'm sure we'll agree

3 any is too many.

4 A. Agreed. Q. But is the -- the vast majority of

6 overdoses have been on heroin, fentanyl, and

7 carfentanil, correct?

8 A. And I would classify those as

9 overdoses on opioids.

10 Q. Okay. But the opioids on which

11 people have overdosed have been heroin,

12 fentanyl, and carfentanil, correct?

13 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

A. Not all of them. But there --14 15 there was a huge influx of fentanyl and

16 carfentanil that killed hundreds of Summit

17 County residents.

18 Q. Do you -- but you do not know

19 what -- what the percentage of the total is of

20 heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil?

21 A. I do not know the percentage.

22 Q. But it's well over half, correct?

23 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

24 A. I've said I don't know the

25 percentage.

I know that Dr. Kohler and

- 2 Dr. Sterbenz talked in their depositions about
- 3 the increases and -- and the percentages, but
- 4 as I sit here today, I can't tell you the
- 5 number.
- 6 Q. Now, when you read Commander
- 7 Paolino's deposition, did you see his testimony
- 8 that the greatest drug threats to Summit County
- 9 today are heroin, fentanyl, crystal meth, and
- 10 cocaine?
- 11 A. I did read that.
- 12 Q. And is -- was that testimony
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. I think from a law enforcement
- 15 perspective, yes. But I think holistically
- 16 prescription opioids still pose an incredibly
- 17 dangerous threat to the Summit County
- 18 community, because there is still this inherent
- 19 trust that if it comes from the doctor, it
- 20 can't hurt me. And -- and that -- from a law
- 21 enforcement perspective, I believe Captain
- 22 Paolino certainly is qualified and certainly
- 23 sees day to day what his troops see out there.
- 24 But I think that is a law enforcement
- 25 perspective that is looking at what's in front

Page

- 1 whatever it is that's opioids, what percentage
- 2 of those are people who, at the time they're
- 3 seeking addiction treatment, are using heroin?
- 4 A. I don't know the answer to that. I 5 sort of, as we discussed before, classify all
- 6 the opioids together.7 Q. Do you view prescription opioids as
- 8 a cause of the problem with methamphetamine?
  9 MS. KEARSE: I'll object to form.
- 10 A. It would be unfair to say that
- 11 Summit County didn't have methamphetamine
- 12 before opioids became the crisis that they are,
- 13 but the resurgence we have seen of
- 14 methamphetamines recently is certainly related
- 15 to the opioid crisis.
- Folks who are suffering with
- 17 addiction become streetwise, and they know that
- 18 their friends are dying of fentanyl,
- 19 carfentanil, opioid overdose, and so they try
- 20 to seek different routes. They are still
- 21 interested in getting high. They still don't
- 22 want to go into withdrawal. They don't want to
- 23 be the sickest they've ever felt, and so they
- 24 choose different drugs, and oftentimes we're
- 25 seeing now methamphetamines, cocaine, even

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1 of them right now.

- As we take a step back with ADM,
- 3 with Summit County Public Health, there is
- 4 still a grave risk of addiction that exists
- 5 every time an opioid is prescribed for
- 6 something that's outside of -- of cancer
- 7 patients and -- and those folks that we know
- 8 with acute pain after surgery, something like 9 that.
- 10 Q. What percentage of people in Summit
- 11 County pursuing addiction treatment are
- 12 using -- are not -- strike that.
- What percentage of the people
- 14 seeking substance abuse treatment for opioids
- 15 are using heroin?

25

- 16 A. I -- the last slide that I saw, it
- 17 was -- it was very close. It was 48 or 52
- 18 percent were using opioids. I can't remember
- 19 which way. But it -- approximately half are 20 using opioids.
- Q. So that is of the total, and so the
- 22 rest would be, like, cocaine or other, meth?
- A. That would be the assumption.
- 24 Alcohol certainly still continues to be --
  - Q. Of that 40-something, 48 or 52 or

- 1 marijuana laced with "fill in the blank,"
- 2 fentanyl, carfentanil, heroin, morphine.
- Q. And, in fact, sometimes it happens
- 4 the other direction, that there's sometime
- 5 people who are addicted to methamphetamine who
- 6 will switch to heroin, correct?
- 7 A. Yes, I think that's fair.
- 8 Q. And sometimes there are people who
- 9 are addicted to cocaine who will switch to
- 10 heroin, correct?
- 11 A. I -- I have not heard that just
- 12 sort of anecdotally, because they're such
- 13 different drugs that produce such different
- 14 results. It would surprise me to find people
- 15 who switch in that -- in that way.
- 16 Q. Do you know that that hasn't
- 17 happened?
- 18 A. I don't. It would just surprise
- 19 me.
- 20 Q. The -- now, you referred earlier to
- 21 sort of the mixing of drugs. There are --
- 22 there -- there are situations where dealers or
- 23 their suppliers will mix fentanyl or even
- 24 carfentanil in with other drugs that are
- 25 supplied to people, correct?

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Page 86 Page 88 1 A. Yes. 1 bit, but -- but there's a little bit of overlap 2 Q. And often the people who buy the 2 in some of these. So --3 MS. KEARSE: Yeah. But if it's --3 drugs do not know that that has happened, 4 correct? 4 if it's -- just for the record, if it's -- if A. That's correct. That's why we 5 there's dollars, costs, anything with that, 6 that's Brian Nelson who's been designated, and 6 started providing fentanyl strips at our Summit 7 County Public Health department. 7 not Ms. Johnson. Q. And so sometimes somebody, you 8 MS. WINNER: I'd like to ask the 9 know, might buy some heroin from their dealer 9 reporter to mark as Exhibit 5 a document titled 10 and not know that that heroin is -- is laced 10 "Media Release," January 25, 2006. 11 with fentanyl, and that leads to an overdose, 11 12 12 correct? (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 5, 13 13 1/25/2006 Media Release, "Heroin A. That can happen, yes. 14 Q. And it's happened a fair amount, 14 Users Face Potentially Fatal 15 has it not? 15 Ingredient," SUMMIT 000350711 to I'm sure. 16 Α. 000350712, was marked for purposes 16 17 There are also times people buy --17 of identification.) 18 have bought cocaine from their dealer that has 18 19 been laced with fentanyl that they have not 19 Q. Have you seen this before? 20 been aware of, correct? 20 A. I have. 21 A. Correct. It's an unregulated 21 O. And Drew Alexander was the sheriff 22 industry. 22 of Summit County at the time; is that correct? 23 Q. So sometimes people who end up 23 A. Yes, he was. 24 overdosing on an opioid may not even realize 24 Q. And do you see here that there is a 25 that they purchased an opioid, correct? 25 warn- -- there's issuing a warning about heroin Page 87 Page 89 1 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 1 mixed with fentanyl? 2 A. Yeah, I -- I suppose that's fair. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. So this is a problem that was seen 3 They may not have known. Yes, that's fair. 4 in the mid-2000s, correct? Q. Has there ever been an effort, to 5 A. Well, I don't know that that's a 5 your knowledge, undertaken to quantify how much 6 Summit County has spent addressing criminal 6 fair characterization because this -- this 7 activity involving drugs that are not opioids? 7 specifically talks about Northeast Ohio. Our A. I don't know that -- that that has 8 Summit County Drug Unit certainly corresponds 9 and interacts with task force officers all over 9 been parsed out. Certainly before we reached 10 an epidemic crisis, you could look at what we 10 the state, so to say that it was a problem in 11 Summit County I think mischaracterizes this, or 11 were spending on indigent defense and 12 could, because it certainly doesn't say that 12 treatment, but I -- I don't know that that's 13 anyone died or that they found fentanyl in 13 been quantified. 14 Summit County, but just in Northeastern Ohio. MS. KEARSE: And, Counsel, I 15 just -- I know we're not talking topic to 15 So I -- I don't know what incident 16 topic, but I think the damages and the costs 16 brought this about, but I -- I don't believe 17 associated with the epidemic is with Brian 17 that it's fair to characterize that it was a 18 Nelson as a 30(b). 18 problem in Summit County in 2006. Q. Do you know whether it -- it was or 19 19 MS. WINNER: That's my 20 wasn't? 20 understanding. 21 MS. KEARSE: Yeah. So I just want 21 A. I -- I was a prosecutor in 2006, 22 to make sure that it's -- I'm not going to say 22 and I never had a fentanyl case in 2006. I 23 what topic you're on, but I think that's --23 don't ever recall hearing of a fentanyl case in 24 going much more into that is really off topic. 24 2006. 25 MS. WINNER: I'm floating around a 25 Q. Do you know that there were none?

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4

11

- A. I don't, but I would be confident
- 2 that if there were any fentanyl cases, it was
- 3 less than a handful.
- Q. Was Summit -- is Summit County
- 5 considered to be part of Northeastern Ohio?
  - A. It is.
- 7 Q. Just want to make sure I was right
- 8 on my geography.
- 9 A. Sure.
- O. Now, here there's discussion here 10
- 11 about fentanyl being used as a prescription
- 12 pharmaceutical.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Now, the fentanyl that has been
- 15 seen in more recent years has been imported
- 16 from Mexico and China, correct?
- 17 A. Some of it has. Some of it was --
- 18 we were seeing fentanyl patches being cut open
- 19 and abused. But I -- yes, it is fair to say
- 20 that there's been an influx of fentanyl,
- 21 primarily from China, in Summit County.
- 22 Q. And that -- the fentanyl that's
- 23 mixed with heroin or with cocaine has been that
- 24 imported fentanyl, correct?
- 25 A. I -- I would say by and large. I

2 County in recent years, correct?

3 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

1 increase in the supply of heroin in Summit

A. There's been an increase in supply?

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- 5 Yes, there's also been an increase in demand.
- Q. But the increase in supply has
- 7 included changes in the distribution methods
- 8 used by Mexican drug cartels in Northeastern
- 9 Ohio, correct?
- 10 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - A. I mean, the cartels have always
- 12 used some of the same hierarchy, whether it was
- 13 cocaine or heroin now.
- 14 I'm not sure what specifically
- 15 you're asking, but, you know, I'm aware that --
- 16 that some of our drugs have come through the 17 southern border, yes.
- Q. Well, and the -- the -- the
- 19 drug traffic organizations have improved their
- 20 distribution strategies, have they not?
- 21 They've gotten more efficient just like other
- 22 businesses.
- 23 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - A. I don't know. I thought they were
- 25 pretty good at it before. I mean, it seemed

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- 1 couldn't say in every instance, but by and
- 2 large it's been imported.
- Q. Do you know of any instance in
- 4 which diverted prescription fentanyl has been
- 5 mixed with heroin or cocaine or other drugs?
- A. Has -- I know that -- I can recall
- 7 it being used in conjunction with, like
- 8 somebody cutting open a patch, and they will
- 9 eat it and take other pills with it. But as
- 10 far as like, you know, mixing the compound, I'm 10 Summit County?
- 11 not aware of any.
- 12 Q. And is the carfentanil that has
- 13 been seen and -- and caused problems in Summit 13
- 14 County in recent years, has that been illicit,
- 15 imported carfentanil?
- A. Yes. I -- frankly, I don't know
- 17 that any of us had heard of carfentanil until
- 18 about 2016.
- Q. So that's -- that's not something
- 20 that you have seen diverted pharmaceutical
- 21 carfentanil for?
- 22 A. No. It's -- it's used for large
- 23 animals. Our zoo in Akron doesn't have animals 23
- 24 large enough to keep carfentanil.
- 25 Q. Now, the -- there's been an

- Page 93 1 like I was pretty busy with drug cases. I
- 2 think they have been in the game long enough
- 3 that they evolve and adapt like any business
- 4 does.

24

- 5 The desire was not for cocaine.
- 6 The desire was for an opium high, and that was
- 7 the market demand, and they adjusted their
- 8 business strategy to meet that.
- Q. Is cocaine still a problem in
- A. I think any time cocaine is around
- 12 it's a problem.
  - Q. Has it -- is it less of a problem
- 14 than it was?
- 15 A. I think -- it was different. Opium
- 16 derivatives and heroin are so different than
- 17 the cocaine problems we saw in the '90s and
- 18 2000s, because people are literally dropping
- 19 dead immediately. And is it -- is it more or
- 20 less of a problem? I don't know, because all
- 21 of our attention became 100 percent
- 22 laser-focused on opioids.
- Q. So there's no focus anymore on
- 24 trying to interdict cocaine?
  - A. No. There's always -- there's

1 always officers whose primary responsibilities 1 have not reviewed every autopsy of the people 2 are to work with the interdiction world, but 2 we lost, but I would -- I would assume that 3 it's just a different focus. 3 some of them also had prescription opioids in 4 It became so prevalent -- it cannot 4 their system as well. 5 be overstated how prevalent the opioid crisis 5 Q. But you don't know what percentage 6 were? 6 discussion was in '14 and '15 and '16. It was 7 the dominant topic in every conversation, 7 A. I don't. 8 whether public or private here. 8 Q. Are you familiar with the term Q. And that was largely because there 9 "diversion" as it relates to prescription 10 pharmaceuticals? 10 were a lot of overdoses that were occurring 11 during that time, correct? 11 A. I am. 12 12 A. Absolutely. Q. And what does diversion mean? 13 Q. And -- and that was in large part 13 A. Diversion means the -- obtaining or 14 because of the problem with fentanyl being 14 using prescription medications outside of the 15 mixed in with the heroin and carfentanil? 15 sort of medically recommended or legal uses. MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 16 O. Is --17 A. I would suggest that those were 17 A. It's the -- it's the way that pills 18 opioid overdoses. That that space, again, was 18 get into our community, sort of outside of the 19 created by the 39 million pills per year that 19 original intended use. 20 were coming into our community. 20 Q. Is diversion a crime? 21 Fentanyl doesn't find its way here 21 A. It -- yes. Are there any situations when it's 22 unless the demand is here, and that demand was 22 23 created by an addicted population brought about 23 not a crime? 24 by opioid prescriptions. 24 A. No. 25 25 Q. I'm not asking you to trace Is it common for pills that have Page 97 1 everything back in history. I'm asking you 1 been diverted to pass through multiple hands 2 what was it that was causing people to perk up 2 before they reach the user? 3 and pay attention, in -- in the period 2014, 3 A. Multiple hands? 4 '15, '16, and that was because people were 4 Q. Multiple people. 5 5 overdosing, correct? MS. KEARSE: Object to form. MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 6 A. Like doctor, pharmacist, patient? 7 A. People were sitting up and paying 7 Q. Well, diversion -- after -- after 8 attention because we all started to see things 8 the diversion first occurs until the user who 9 in our lane. Prosecutors were seeing their 9 consumes it, are there often --10 lane. ADM was seeing their lane. Hospital was 10 A. I see what you're saying. 11 seeing their lane. ER visits were up. And we 11 Q. -- multiple steps in there? 12 all started to come together to say, you know, 12 A. So diversion can occur with the 13 how is this going on and how -- how do we treat 13 original patient. I mean, certainly diversion 14 this community issue? 14 can occur if I'm someone who is addicted and my 15 Not the least of which was that we 15 doctor will no longer prescribe to me and I go 16 had thousands -- we lost thousands of people in 16 to another doctor, that's diversion as well. 17 that time period. 17 So -- so in that case, no. In other cases, I don't know the Q. And those were the people who were 18 19 overdosing on heroin and fentanyl, correct? 19 answer to that. It's not something I've 20 A. Those were the people who were 20 considered before. 21 overdosing on opioids. 21 Q. All right. Well, I'd like to talk 22 Q. But the opioids they were 22 about some of the ways that diversion does 23 overdosing on were heroin and fentanyl, were 23 occur.

25 (Pages 94 - 97)

24

25

A. Uh-huh.

And I think we've already talked

Those were two of the drugs. I

24 they not?

A.

Page 100 Page 98 1 about some of them. One of them you talked A. Well, I think with better 2 about just now. I think it's referred to as 2 education. It might not prevent them on that 3 doctor shopping, correct? 3 particular day, but perhaps if accurate 4 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 4 information had been provided by the 5 A. I've heard it called that, yes. 5 manufacturers to distributors and doctors, 6 perhaps that first initial prescription 6 Yeah. Or hopping. Q. What is doctor shopping or doctor 7 wouldn't have been written. So, you know --7 Q. So anything else that -- that a --8 hopping? 9 well, I've asked you specifically not about the A. It's when an individual typically 10 manufacturer, but about a distributor. What --10 has a prescription from their doctor, and 11 typically for opioid, and at some point either 11 what can a dis- -- what can a distributor do to 12 becomes so addicted that their prescribed 12 stop doctor shopping? 13 dos- -- dosage no longer keeps them from 13 A. Well, I -- I think when they see 14 becoming pill sick, or their doctor has said, 14 that -- because doctor shopping isn't just 15 you know, there's no reason -- this was 15 limited to somebody who's looking for two 16 different doctors. You can be looking for that 16 post-surgical, or something like that, or they 17 don't have a primary care physician, and so 17 one special doc who everybody knows --18 they seek to get more opioids from another 18 Q. Uh-huh. 19 doctor than the one they originated with. 19 A. -- will fill the script. And I 20 Q. Is doctor -- did doctor shopping or 20 think distributors have and do have the 21 doctor hopping occur for other drugs, like 21 responsibility of identifying when, you know, 22 Xanax or... 22 there are certain doctors who are writing A. I'm sure that it did. I -- I don't 23 hundreds of scripts. Like we -- we did have a 24 couple of those in Summit County. 24 recall -- I don't recall any specific instances

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1 sure that it did.

Q. Well, talking about doctor

3 shopping, let's limit it to opioids for right 4 now. Who has the power to prevent it from

25 where I would say I'd seen that, but I'm -- I'm

5 happening?

A. Well, certainly the person who 7 writes the prescription, if they are accessing

8 OARRS, so the -- the physician.

Pharmacists who have access to 10 OARRS.

But, again, having dealt with an

12 addicted population to crack, to

13 methamphetamine, cocaine -- if you believe or

14 not, people can be addicted to marijuana --

15 opioid addicts are far more clever and are far

16 more committed than any other addicted

17 population I've seen.

18 So prevention, there are -- there

19 are guardrails that should be in place, but

20 these folks are very committed. And frankly,

21 you know, I think the other people that could

22 have intervened are certainly the manufacturers

23 and distributors. There were --

Q. Well, how is a distributor going to

25 prevent doctor shopping?

1 with doctors?

25

2 Their reps do.

3 Q. Distributors, or pharmaceutical --

Q. Do distributors interact directly

4 or manufacturers?

A. I guess I hadn't thought about it

6 that way. I suppose it's manufacturers. I --

7 I -- I guess I hadn't really thought of it in 8 that terms.

9 Q. Well, let's -- another kind of

10 diversion occurs when people still -- still --

11 steal pills, correct?

12 A. Yes.

Q. And sometimes they will -- may rob 13

14 a pharmacy or a hospital.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Who has the power to prevent that

17 from happening?

A. I mean, crime prevention in

19 general? I don't -- I don't know who -- I

20 don't know who has the power to prevent a

21 robbery from occurring.

22 Q. There's also a theft just from

23 individuals from friends or from family

24 members?

25 A. Correct.

26 (Pages 98 - 101)

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- Q. And would your answer be the same as -- if I asked you who has the power to prevent that from happening?
- 4 A. No, it wouldn't be.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 A. Because there was so much
- 7 overprescribing based on bad information, that,
- 8 you know, an incident that probably could have
- 9 been handled with a three- or five-day supply,
- 10 there was a 30-day supply. And --
- 11 Q. So if doctors --
- 12 A. -- you know, I -- I --
- 13 Q. I'm sorry. No, go ahead.
- 14 A. You had asked earlier. I have
- 15 taken an opioid post-surgery, but I've never
- 16 taken the whole bottle. And I think that
- 17 that's reflective of so many folks in our
- 18 community who take a couple, feel better, and
- 19 then they stay in the medicine cabinet, and --
- 20 and that is -- that is certainly a way that
- 21 pills in Summit County were diverted.
- So perhaps if there had been better
- 23 information about habit forming and addiction
- 24 levels, perhaps those -- those prescriptions
- 25 for 30 days would not have occurred when three

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- 1 prevented the readily available supply. I
- 2 mean, again, I -- it's such a big number to me.
- 3 39 million pills. 72 pills for every man,
- 4 woman, and child in Summit County. So they
- 5 were just there. They were so available.
- 6 Q. But sometimes pills were taken from 7 people who had legitimate prescriptions for the
- 8 full amount for which they were prescribed,
- 9 correct?

14

16

1

- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. So it's not always the fault of the
- 12 doctor or anybody else for giving the person
- 13 too many pills --
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 15 O. -- is it?
  - A. I've not encountered a situation
- 17 where someone stole pills from a sick relative
- 18 when they hadn't already had pills before.
- 19 Q. Okay. But the -- when they steal
- 20 pills from a sick relative, that sick relative
- 21 may have the pills perfectly legitimately.
- A. They may, yes.
- Q. And so the doctor may have done
- 24 exactly the right thing in giving them the
- 25 pills, correct?

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1 or five would have sufficed.

- 2 O. So -- so doc- -- so doctors -- if
- 3 doctors could pre- -- prescribed less, there
- 4 would be less theft?
- 5 A. I think if doctors had the accurate
- 6 information, that they would have acted in that 7 fashion.
- / lasilion.
- 8 Q. Will doctors have the accurate
- 9 information today?
- 10 A. I hope so. I think that's what
- 11 we're trying to make sure of.
- 12 Q. What happened to the rest of your
- 13 pills?

25

- 14 A. We disposed of them. I -- we
- 15 have -- I worked in the courthouse, and the
- 16 police off- -- officer has a dump box right in
- 17 the -- right when you walk in the door at the
- 18 Akron Police Department.
- 19 Q. There is also a diversion just from
- 20 people giving pills to friends, like kids get
- 21 together and give pills to each other, correct?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. And -- and who has the power to
- 24 prevent that from happening?
  - A. Well, again, if we could have

- A. Correct.
- Q. And the pharmacy may have done
- 3 exactly the right thing in filling that
- 4 prescription, correct?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. And the distributor may have done
- 7 exactly the right thing in -- in supplying the
- 8 pills to the pharmacy, correct?
- A. There are residents in Summit
- 10 County who legitimately need and are prescribed
- 11 these pills, yes.
- 12 Q. And -- and the manufacturer that
- 13 manufactured the pills that were given to that
- 14 sick relative didn't do anything wrong in
- 15 giving -- in manufacturing those pills that
- 16 went to that sick relative?
  - A. For that particular person --
- MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 19 A. -- I -- you know, for that
- 20 particular person, if that's what was
- 21 prescribed appropriately, then, yes.
- Q. And then, when they're stolen but
- 23 they -- when they're stolen, they're then
- 24 diverted, and the person who's at fault is
- 25 whoever stole them, correct?

Page 108 Page 106 1 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 1 just flat out improper prescrib- --2 prescribing. Doctors prescribing pills that 2 A. I -- you know, I -- the person who 3 is at fault for what? 3 they know the person doesn't need, correct? Q. All right. Let me just ask. Do 4 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 5 you think that the person who steals pills from 5 A. Yes, there were -- there were 6 somebody else is at fault? 6 doctors who were improperly prescribing in MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 7 Summit County. 8 A. Yeah. I'm not -- I'm not -- no. 8 Q. And they were -- these were doctors who knew they were improperly prescribing? 9 I'm not going to sort of fall into that 10 victim-blaming trap. No. Because these -- I A. I think that's fair. 10 11 have not seen an instance where someone stole And some of them were prosecuted, 11 12 pills from a sick relative who was not already 12 correct? 13 addicted to opioids. 13 A. 14 Q. Has anybody stolen pills from --14 Have you ever heard the term "pill 15 from somebody else, another individual, whether 15 mill"? 16 they're a sick relative or not, who's been 16 Α. 17 prosecuted? 17 Were there pill mills in Summit Q. 18 A. Has -- say that again, please. 18 County? 19 Q. Has a person who's stolen pills 19 A. I think that we had a couple 20 from another person been prosecuted in Summit 20 that -- depending on what your definition is, 21 County? 21 that were referred to as -- as pill mills, yes. 22 22 A. Stolen pills from another person. Q. Are there pill mills in Summit 23 I mean, we've had robberies, certainly. 23 County today? Q. And those people are prosecuted, 24 A. Not that I'm aware of. 25 25 right? Who were -- who were the ones Page 107 Page 109 1 A. Yes. 1 that -- that you were aware of? 2 Q. And they're convicted? 2 A. Yeah. Dr. Bressi, Dr. Heim, 3 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 3 Dr. Harper stood out as -- you know, they 4 4 were -- they were headline news at the time. 5 Q. And are some of the people who --Q. And these were people who wrote 6 prescriptions for large numbers of patients who 6 well, strike that. 7 Another type of diversion that 7 didn't need opioids, but they gave them 8 occurs is the forgery of prescriptions, 8 prescriptions for opioids anyway, correct? 9 correct? 9 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 10 10 A. That's correct. A. These were doctors who -- will you 11 say that part again? I feel like there was a Q. Is that something you saw in the 12 couple different questions in that. 12 prosecutor's office? 13 Q. All right. Well, these were A. It is. 13 14 14 people -- these were doctors who wrote Q. And so were you, as a prosecutor, 15 and the police you worked with, the main people 15 prescriptions for opioids for patients knowing 16 who have the power to address that issue? 16 that they didn't need them, correct? 17 A. I -- I think that there was some 17 A. I --18 education that could have occurred with the 18 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 19 pharmacists from, you know, their board. I 19 A. I don't think that "need" -- I 20 think with the advent of OARRS and sort of the 20 think that term "need" is tough for me, because 21 understanding that these pills were highly 21 from the patient's perspective, they needed 22 addictive started to become more prevalent in 22 them. They were deeply addicted. And --23 our community. Physicians, pharmacists, and 23 Q. Okay. Let me ask it a different 24 law enforcement began to work together. 24 way, then.

28 (Pages 106 - 109)

25

Okay. Okay.

Q. Now, another cause of diversion is

1 Q. So they -- they wrote --2 MS. KEARSE: Counsel, I'm just --3 she was answering your question. 4 MS. WINNER: Okay. 5 MS. KEARSE: I believe you just cut 6 her off. So --Q. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to cut 8 you off. I just -- I think maybe you 9 misunderstood my question. I wanted to 10 rephrase it. The -- my -- my question is they 11 12 wrote -- they wrote -- let -- let me put it a 13 different way.

14 These were people that were 15 prosecuted for writing prescriptions to 16 patients for which -- for whom the -- the 17 prescriptions were improper? 18 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

19 A. I think im- -- yeah, "improper" 20 is -- is fair. I -- I think that we prosecuted

21 doctors who were not following their oath, who

22 were -- were writing prescriptions to, albeit 23 sick individuals, but should have intervened in

24 a different way.

25 In fact, it wasn't just wrong what

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1 Q. So people who are engaged in 2 diversion include medical professionals, 3 correct?

4 MS. KEARSE: Object to the form.

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5 A. You mean the doctors who were 6 prescribing?

7 Q. Well, sometimes it's maybe doctors 8 who were prescribing. Sometimes it may be 9 doctors or nursing -- nurses or others who are 10 stealing --

11 A. I see.

12 Q. -- drugs, correct?

13 A. I see. We did have instances, yes,

14 of that.

21

6

7

Q. Dentists have also been involved in 15 16 diversion?

17 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

A. I -- I'm not aware of -- well, are 18 19 you asking are there, you know, like, bad

20 dentists in Summit County?

O. Yes.

22 A. I -- I don't know that -- I don't

23 know of -- of a dentist we've prosecuted. I'm

24 sure that there has been diversion in a dentist

25 office through someone seeking opioids, but

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1 they were doing, it was criminal what they were 2 doing, correct?

A. There's no question. But, you 4 know, at the same time, these doctors were 5 still being called upon by reps. I mean, we 6 certainly have seen that through the discovery 7 process the number of times -- you know, it's 8 not to excuse the -- the behavior of these 9 docs, certainly, but they definitely had a 10 partner in that crime.

Q. But they knew that what they were 12 doing was -- was illegal, correct?

13 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

14 A. I -- I think that they did, yes.

15 Q. All right. Is any of the -- are

16 any of the diverted prescription opioids sold

17 in Summit County smuggled in from Canada?

A. I don't know the answer to that. I 19 don't think we really had a need. We had

20 almost 40 million pills a year, so I -- it's

21 not something I ever encountered.

22 Q. But you don't know how many pills a

23 year came in from Canada?

A. Not into Summit County, I do not.

25 Certainly not illegally.

1 I -- I don't -- I'm not familiar if we had a 2 dentist.

3 Q. Has every medical professional 4 who's been suspected of diversion been 5 prosecuted?

A. Suspected? I'm sure not.

Q. Why not?

8 A. At the time? Are -- I guess I

9 should ask you to -- to be specific. Are you 10 asking if every doc who we thought was, you

11 know, acting outside of their oath was -- are

12 you asking if every doc who was duped by

13 somebody seeking a pill that they should not

14 have been seeking?

15 Q. I'm asking you if -- if -- if every 16 doctor that you suspected might be knowingly 17 writing improper prescriptions was prosecuted?

18 A. I don't think so.

19 Why? O.

A. Because the access to OARRS at the 20

21 time was so incredibly limited. The way that

22 doctors were originally prosecuted was really 23 an officer or detective driving from pharmacy

24 to pharmacy to pharmacy and trying to interview

1 rat out their doc, especially when they're

- 2 deeply addicted to opioids.
- 3 So to suspect a doctor is one
- 4 thing. To be able to put that case together,
- 5 really almost impossible because the lack of
- 6 cooperation that you need from the patients,
- 7 because there was such limited access to OARRS
- 8 at the time. I'm sure that there were some
- 9 that we missed.
- 10 Q. Are there situations where it's not
- 11 a bright line as to whether a prescription was
- 12 written improperly or not?
- 13 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 14 A. I know that there were doctors who
- 15 were given information that said these are
- 16 folks -- you know, these are the right kind of
- 17 patients who aren't going to get addicted. And
- 18 I think that's bad information for the docs to
- 19 act on.
- 20 So the bright line, was it an
- 21 improper prescription? Perhaps. However, the
- 22 doc was acting in good faith.
- Q. Well, leaving aside whether the
- 24 doctor had good -- let's assume it's today when
- 25 a doctor -- and a doctor has good information.
  - Page 115

24

- 1 Is law enforcement always able to fully
- 2 evaluate whether the doctor has properly --
- 3 A. No. We're --
- 4 Q. -- made a prescription?
- 5 A. Law enforcement is not trying to
- 6 put itself, and neither is the County, in the
- 7 shoes of a physician. I mean, we still want to
- 8 allow doctors to treat their patients.
- 9 Q. And whether to prescribe opioids or
- 10 not to a particular patient is often a judgment
- 11 call, is it not?
- 12 A. Yes, because pain is self-reported.
- 13 Q. And different doctors have -- may
- 14 have different judgments about the appropriate
- 15 way to treat pain for a particular patient,
- 16 correct?
- 17 A. Absolutely.
- 18 Q. Do you know how many nurses have
- 19 been prosecuted for diversion?
- A. The exact number, no, but I recall
- 21 reading in Brad Gessner's deposition, like,
- 22 half a dozen in one particular year or one
- 23 particular span of time that he talked about.
- Q. Does Summit County ever work with
- 25 the board of nursing or the medical board or

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- 1 the board of pharmacy to try to get licenses
- 2 lifted for people who are involved in
- 3 diversion?

4

6

- A. That did occur.
- 5 Q. When did it occur?
  - A. I recall it occurring in the late
- 7 2000s. Certainly when I was a prosecutor I
- 8 recall there being some nursing licenses that
- 9 were in question.
- 10 Q. And who -- how did that work?
- 11 Did -- did somebody reach out to the -- to the
- 12 board?
- 13 A. Typically the board already knew,
- 14 because, frankly, the nurses tended to
- 15 self-report. As soon as the diversion occurred
- 16 and they were -- they first encountered law
- 17 enforcement, they -- there was, by and large,
- 18 self-reporting.
- 19 Q. In your view, did the medical
- 20 board -- just focusing just on the medical
- 21 board -- did the medical board do enough to
- 22 regulate doctors who were involved in this?
- 23 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - A. I don't feel like I can make that
- 25 judgment. I'm -- I'm not familiar with what
  - Page 117

1 the medical board did at that time.

- 2 Q. Do you have a view about whether
- 3 the nursing board did enough? The board of
- 4 nursing did enough?
- 5 A. Again, I -- what they were doing to
- 6 regulate their folks, I mean, I think looking
- 7 back, we criminalized addiction at that time,
- 8 and we still do today. And if -- if I could go
- 9 back, I would go back with a different mindset
- 10 of rather than creating a felon out of this
- 11 situation, trying to figure out what caused it
- 12 and -- and trying to put that person in a
- 13 better position to be in recovery rather than
- 14 taking away their means to provide treatment.
- 15 You know, their means to put food on their own
- 16 table.
- 17 Q. My question was, did you have a
- 18 view about whether the board of nursing did
- 19 enough to combat diversion?
- A. I don't know what the board of
- 21 nursing did at that time.
- MS. WINNER: I'd like to ask the
- 23 reporter to mark as Exhibit 6 a document titled
- 24 "Summit County and the City of Akron, Ohio,
- 25 Plaintiff's Supplemental Responses and

Page 118 Page 120 1 Objections to Distributor Defendants' 1 Q. My question is, do you know 2 Interrogatory No. 3, as Rewritten by Special 2 anything -- do you know anything about these 3 Master David Cohen." 3 two pharmacies or their involvement in 4 4 diversion beyond what is in this interrogatory - - - - -5 (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 6, 5 response? 6 Summit County and City of Akron, 6 A. About -- no, I do not. 7 Ohio Plaintiff's Supplemental 7 Q. All right. If you would then turn 8 Responses and Objections to 8 a few more pages in to page 8. At the top of 9 9 that page, it says, "Based upon data made Distributor Defendants' 10 Interrogatory Number 3 As Rewritten 10 available to Summit County and the City of by Special Master David Cohen, was 11 Akron through the Court's order concerning 11 12 12 ARCOS data, Plaintiff has identified the marked for purposes of 13 identification.) 13 following pharmacies as having placed 14 - - - - -14 suspicious orders during the relevant time 15 15 frame." Q. Have you seen this before? 16 A. I have. 16 Do you see that? 17 17 Q. Was this one of the documents you A. I do, uh-huh. 18 reviewed in preparing for this deposition? 18 Q. Do you know whether any of the A. It is -- look through it -- yes. I 19 pharmacies that are then listed on this list 19 20 recognize that. 20 have been investigated for diversion? 21 21 A. Oh, I don't know. Like a detective Q. Okay. If you would turn to page 22 5 ---22 went and -- is that what you're asking? 23 Q. Whether anything was done to -- to A. Uh-huh. 24 Q. -- we'll skip over the objections 24 look into anything involving any of these 25 for now -- it asks to identify those pharmacies 25 pharmacies? Page 121 1 within your geographical boundaries that you 1 A. Well, no. I don't think we had 2 investigated for or learned were being 2 that data until the Judge released it. 3 investigated for or learned were engaged in Q. But apart from -- apart from that 4 possible diversion or wrongful prescription of 4 data, do you know whether any of these 5 prescription opioids during the time frame. 5 pharmacies have ever been investigated for 6 And then if you go down below, there's a list 6 involvement in diversion? 7 of two pharmacies. 7 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 8 A. Yes. 8 A. I -- I mean, I'm -- I'm confident 9 some of these pharmacies were part of criminal Q. Are you familiar with these two 10 pharmacies? 10 investigations when somebody was, you know, A. I mean, I've seen this document. 11 seeking to pass a forged script or something 12 like that. I mean, there's -- but I -- I don't 12 I'm not familiar with -- I've never been to 13 either one of these pharmacies. 13 know specifically that anybody has investigated Q. Okay. Do you know what -- the 14 these pharmacies, from law enforcement 15 first of these, what -- what the wrongdoing was 15 perspective. 16 that was investigated entailed? 16 Q. Do you know whether, apart from 17 A. I believe this was -- no. I don't 17 whatever analysis was done of the ARCOS data, 18 Summit County has any reason to believe that 18 want to guess. I -- I don't know. I mean, I 19 could read through this again more closely if 19 any of these pharmacies dispensed 20 it's detailed in here. 20 pharmaceuticals improperly? 21 21 Q. It's not. MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 22 A. Okay. Okay. 22 A. Well, certainly as they were listed 23 O. At least not that I -- not that I'm 23 in the response, I'm confident that our counsel

24 and the experts have determined, based on the

25 ARCOS data, that there was some involvement,

A. No. Okay.

24 aware of.

Page 122 Page 124 1 whether it was a fail to report or stop a 1 pharmacy necessarily mean that there was 2 suspicious order. 2 anything wrong going on? 3 Q. I'm talking about the pharmacies. MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 4 Is there anything any of these pharmacies is 4 A. Outside of -- of the guardrails of 5 believed to have done wrong with prescription 5 reporting, I know that we've learned, through 6 opioids that they ordered? 6 the discovery process, that there were -- there 7 was at least a pharmacy that always kept on A. The pharmacies that are listed are 8 our representation of pharmacies we believe 8 hand a greater number of opioids due to its 9 have placed suspicious orders. 9 proximity to one of our sort of nefarious docs. Q. But you would agree, as a former 10 So the reporting requirements of the 11 prosecutor, that there's a difference between a 11 pharmacies, I think, are in question. 12 suspicion of wrongdoing and actual wrongdoing, 12 That's -- that's the way I understand it. 13 correct? 13 Q. What's the pharmacy you were just 14 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 14 referring to? 15 A. I mean, sure. There's also A. I believe there was a Rite Aid. I 15 16 different burdens of proof, and, you know, the 16 don't -- yeah. I would guess it's this one on 17 criterion that we looked at for -- or were 17 Waterloo Road. 18 asked to provide, I think, informed some of our Q. You would guess or you know? 18 19 19 decisions about what we looked at. A. I don't know. You know what? I'm 20 Q. But my question is, do you -- apart 20 not going to say. I know -- I know that it was 21 from whatever analysis that was done with the 21 a Rite Aid in proximity to one of the docs. 22 ARCOS data to come up with this list --Q. But there might also -- there might 22 23 A. Oh, okay. 23 also be a pharmacy that's in proximity to a 24 24 hospice prescriber, correct? Than --Q. -- do you know of any- -- anything 25 else that Summit County is aware of indicating A. Sorry. I got distracted by the 25 Page 125 1 that any of these pharmacies did anything wrong 1 pounding. 2 with the prescription opioids that they 2 MS. WINNER: Let's go off the 3 ordered? 3 record. A. Apart from the ARCOS data, I am not 4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record 4 5 aware of anything, no. 5 at 10:51. Q. Do you know how it was determined, 6 (A recess was taken.) 7 based on the ARCOS data, that these pharmacies 7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record. placed suspicious orders? 8 This is the beginning of Disk No. 2 of A. That was done by counsel and the 9 deposition of Greta Johnson. The time is 10 experts who analyzed that data. 10 11:09. So is the answer, no, you don't 11 Q. MS. KEARSE: I just want to, has 12 know? 12 any- -- everyone on the phone made an 13 13 appearance? MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 14 14 A. I know that that's how this list MS. RAYFORD: I have not. This is 15 was created. How they did that, I do not know. 15 Latiera Rayford of Morgan Lewis on behalf of Q. If you would then go on to page 10 16 the Teva Defendants. 17 of the exhibit -- and we're still on 17 MS. WINNER: Anyone else? 18 Exhibit 6 ---18 (No response.) 19 19 A. Uh-huh. MS. WINNER: Okay. We'll go ahead, O. -- then there's a list here of 20 then. 21 BY MS. WINNER: 21 pharmacies that had the largest shipments of 22 opioids. 22 Q. We were on Exhibit 6 and on page 23 23 10, the list of pharmacies that were identified A. Uh-huh.

32 (Pages 122 - 125)

24 as having the largest shipments of opioids.

Do you see that?

25

25 larger shipment of opioids than another

Q. Does the fact that a pharmacy had a

Page 126 Page 128 1 A. I do. 1 Summit has investigated any of these pharmacies 2 Q. And the question I was trying to 2 for wrongdoing? 3 ask you was whether you would agree that a 3 A. I don't know. 4 pharmacy may have a large shipment of opioids 4 MS. WINNER: I'd like to ask the 5 simply because it has a lot of legitimate 5 reporter to mark as Exhibit 7 a document 6 prescriptions to fill. 6 entitled "Summit County and City of Akron, A. Yes. I think these were identified 7 Ohio, Plaintiff's First Amended Responses and 8 because there was an increase in -- from, you 8 Objections to Distributor Defendants' Third Set 9 know, one shipment to the next. So I -- I 9 of Interrogatories." 10 believe that some of the pharmacies were 10 11 identified because of the increase. 11 (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 7, 12 Q. Is that for the list on page 10 or 12 Summit County and City of Akron, 13 the list on page 8? 13 Ohio Plaintiff's First Amended 14 A. I want to make sure they're the 14 Responses and Objections to 15 same. 15 Distributor Defendants' Third Set of 16 Well, some -- it appears that some 16 Interrogatories, was marked for 17 of them are the same. So these are identified 17 purposes of identification.) 18 as having just the largest overall set. 18 19 19 Q. Yes. Q. Is this another one of the 20 A. Okay. Okay. 20 interrogatory documents that you reviewed in 21 So my question was, would you agree 21 preparing for this deposition? 22 that a pharmacy may have a large shipment of 22 Yes, or at least some form of this. 23 opioids simply because it has a lot of 23 Q. Okay. Well, why don't you turn to 24 legitimate prescriptions to fill? 24 page 11. 25 Α. Yes. 25 A. Okay. Okay. Page 127 Page 129 1 Q. So the mere fact that -- that a Q. And then, on about two-thirds of 2 shipment is large does not in and of itself 2 the way down the page, it says, "Subject to and 3 indicate wrongdoing. 3 waiving all objections, Plaintiff states that 4 A. No, but I think it does require 4 it believes on information and belief that the 5 that there is -- I don't want to say 5 following individuals prescribed controlled 6 investigation, but there is sort of a look at 6 substances that may be part of a suspicious 7 why that size. 7 order in its geographic area." Q. Do you know whether Summit has --8 Do you see that? 9 has looked into the reasons why these are A. I do. 9 Q. And then there are five people who 10 large? 10 11 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 11 are identified below that, correct? A. Whether -- you mean our counsel? 12 12 A. I see that. 13 Q. Whether Summit -- anyone from Do these names look familiar to 13 Q. 14 Summit has looked into the reasons why these 14 you? 15 particular pharmacies have had large shipments? 15 A. Other than I -- I believe I've seen A. I don't know that we had this data 16 this document or a version of this document, 16 17 until fairly recently. This is, I believe, 17 no. I do not know these doctors. 18 part of the ARCOS data. Q. Do you know why these doctors are Q. My question was, do you know --19 19 believed to have prescribed controlled 20 Oh, okay. Sorry. 20 substances that may be part of a suspicious 21 Q. -- whether anyone from Summit has 21 order? 22 looked into the reasons why these particular 22 A. It's my understanding that based on

33 (Pages 126 - 129)

23 the data we received from ARCOS that they were

Q. Oh, you believe these -- these

25

24 identified.

23 pharmacies had large orders?

A. I don't know.

Do you know whether anyone from

24

1 doctors were identified from ARCOS data?

- A. So my understanding is that these
- 3 doctors are identified as potentially being
- 4 part of a suspicious order in a geographical
- 5 area, not necessarily that their prescribing
- 6 was not appropriate, but that they wrote
- 7 prescriptions that were part of a suspicious
- 8 order in a geographical area.
  - Q. And what's the basis for that?
- 10 A. That's based on the ARCOS data, the 11 expert analysis of it.
- But I know that -- I know that when
- 13 we're talking about the prescriptions -- you
- 14 know, our -- our contention is that it isn't
- 15 just like any one prescription or any one
- 16 doctor. It's -- it's in the aggregate. And
- 17 when sort of forced or ordered to come up with
- 18 certain prescriptions, our team looked at the
- 19 three criterion of not a cancer patient, 120
- 20 morphine-equivalent grams or -- "and," I should
- 21 say -- not "or, "and" -- someone being
- 22 prescribed who was identified as having drug
- 23 dependency.

9

- So I -- I don't know if that's what
- 25 you're asking, but that was the criterion

- 1 Q. Why were these five doctors
  - 2 identified in this discovery response? What

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- 3 is -- what are the criteria that were used to
- 4 identify them?
- 5 A. I don't know how to answer that 6 question.
- 7 Q. Okay. Do you know whether any of
- 8 these doctors are believed to have done
- 9 anything wrong?
- 10 A. I don't know that that's the
- 11 assertion. I know that they were identified as
- 12 having written prescriptions that were
- 13 contained in a part of a suspicious order.
- 14 Q. How do you -- how do you determine
- 15 whether prescriptions a particular doctor
- 16 writes are part of a suspicious order?
- 17 A. My understanding is in the way
- 18 that -- I don't know if it was the special
- 19 magistrate or the judge -- sort of the
- 20 flowchart he did, when a suspicious order comes
- 21 in, my understanding is that it's all of those
- 22 prescriptions that were written that were
- 23 filled by that particular order. So I --
- Q. Well, but an order goes -- a
- 25 suspicious order -- a suspicious order is an

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- 1 for --
- Q. Well, we're going to be coming --
- 3 we'll be coming back to -- to those questions
- 4 later.
- 5 A. Okay
- 6 Q. That's a separate set of -- of
- 7 discovery requests.
- 8 A. Okay.
- 9 Q. My question is, how did these --
- 10 these -- you come up with these specific five
- 11 doctors?
- 12 A. I --
- Q. Are they the ones who wrote the
- 14 prescriptions that you responded to in the
- 15 other discovery requests?
- 16 A. I don't -- I don't know the answer
- 17 to that. I'm afraid that I'm -- I'm probably
- 18 trying to answer a question I don't understand.
- 19 So I --
- 20 O. Okay.
- 21 A. -- I'll -- I'll ask you --
- 22 Q. Well, let me --
- A. -- to start over.
- Q. -- let me try the question again.
- 25 A. Sure.

Page 133 1 order placed by a pharmacy, correct?

- 2 A. That's -- that's my understanding,
- 3 yes.

- Q. Okay. And the ARCOS data has
- 5 information on pharmacy orders. It doesn't
- 6 have information about prescriptions or doctors
- 7 who write prescriptions, correct?
- 8 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. Lack of
- 9 foundation.
- 10 Q. Or does it?
- 11 A. Could you say that again, please?
  - Q. Does the ARCOS data include
- 13 information about prescriptions, individual
- 14 prescriptions?
- 15 A. I believe that what we did was used
- 16 a -- a different -- I don't know what to call
- 17 it -- data warehouse to get some of that
- 18 information.
- 19 Q. So how do you know -- how do you
- 20 know whether Dr. Mark Davis wrote a
- 21 prescription that was part of a suspicious
- 22 order?
- A. It's my understanding the
- 24 information that's been gathered by the
- 25 attorneys identifies that.

Page 134 Page 136 1 Q. So this is something the attorneys 1 beyond that, I don't know. 2 came up with? 2 MS. WINNER: Okay. I'd like to 3 A. Well, I don't think that they 3 mark as Exhibit 8 a document entitled "Summit 4 created it out of thin air. I -- I -- my 4 County and City of Akron, Ohio, Plaintiff's 5 understanding is that the ARCOS data is one 5 First Amended Responses and Objections to 6 Distributor Defendants' First Set of 6 piece of it, and that the second piece is --7 gosh, what's the name of it -- Rawlings is a 7 Interrogatories." 8 data mine of sorts. 8 9 9 O. Uh-huh. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 8, 10 A. That's what I've come to -- to 10 Summit County and City of Akron, 11 know, that we contracted with to get the Ohio Plaintiff First Amended 11 12 information about, sort of, start to finish 12 Responses and Objections to 13 where the pills came from. 13 Distributor Defendants' First Set of 14 Q. So do you know where the pills that 14 Interrogatories, was marked for 15 Dr. Mark Davis came from prescribed? 15 purposes of identification.) When Dr. Mark Davis prescribed 16 17 pills, somebody had to go to a pharmacy and 17 Q. My question on this one relate to 18 fill that prescription, right? 18 page 36. 19 A. Yes. 19 A. Have I seen this one? 20 Q. Or maybe they maybe went to 20 or 20 Q. You were just asking yourself under 21 30 or 80 different pharmacies to fill those 21 your breath whether you've seen this one. 22 prescriptions, correct? 22 A. Yes. 23 A. Sure. 23 Q. What's the answer to that question? 24 O. How do we know -- how do we find 24 A. I -- I think I -- I try and look at 25 which suspicious order he's being tied to here? 25 the dates because you all amend the responses. Page 135 Page 137 A. Again, it's my understanding that 1 I believe I have seen this, and I --2 the ARCOS data, coupled with the data that we 2 Q. Okay. 3 contracted with to get from Rawlings, put this 3 A. Yeah, I recognize this paragraph. 4 piece together. 4 5 Q. And that's all you know about it? 5 A. Yes. 6 A. That is, yes. 6 Q. Good. Well that's the paragraph I Q. Do you know whether any of the 7 wanted to ask you about. 8 prescriptions written by Dr. Mark Davis were 8 A. Sure. 9 improper? Q. It refers to four prescribers in 10 A. Improper in what way? 10 Summit County who were convicted of crimes Q. They weren't meant for medically 11 involving drug diversion? 11 12 necessary purposes. 12 A. Yes. A. I -- I don't want to put my place Q. And it says "since 2014." Were 14 in -- I don't want to put myself in the place 14 there any prescribers convicted of crimes 15 of a medical doctor. I don't -- I don't know. 15 involving drug diversion before 2014? Q. Do you know whether any of the A. I don't know the answer to that. 17 prescriptions written by the other doctors 17 I -- I would have -- if you would have asked me 18 listed here were improper in the sense of not 18 when it started, I would have said early teens, 19 being medically necessary? 19 but I don't know the exact -- the exact years. 20 A. I -- same answer. I don't 20 Q. Well, what did Dr. Harper and his 21 recognize these names. However, I know we did 21 employees do? 22 prosecute more doctors than the ones I named A. They were sort of one of the most 23 originally. I -- I don't have all of their 23 prominently known offices for folks who were 24 names committed to memory. So if they were 24 seeking prescriptions. The investigation into 25 someone that was prosecuted, certainly. But 25 Dr. Harper was lengthy, as I recall. And they

35 (Pages 134 - 137)

Page 138 1 were prescribing just incredibly large numbers

- 2 of opioids at the time.
- Q. Now, he prescribed -- some of the 4 people he prescribed to, I assume, were 5 probably addicts; is that correct?
- MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 7 A. I mean, I think that a lot of
- 8 people who went into Dr. Harper's office were 9 definitely suffering from addiction, yes.
- Q. And some of his patients were not 11 addicts when they went in, but may have been 12 addicts after they were his patients?
- 13 A. They became addicts after -- after
- 14 taking opioids, yes, certainly.
- Q. And those were opioids that he 15 16 prescribed?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know how many patients were 19 in that category?
- 20 A. In the category of?
- 21 The people who went -- who weren't O.
- 22 addicts when they went --
- 23 A. Oh.
- 24 O. -- to him but became addicts after
- 25 having seen him and gotten prescriptions from

Page 140 1 prosecuted for filling his prescriptions?

- 2 A. Prosecuted? Like criminally
- 3 prosecuted?
- Q. Well, let's start with just
- 5 invest- -- criminally investigated.
- A. Well, I'm certain that, you know,
- 7 you'll -- you'll be able to talk to Detective
- 8 Leonard about that more specifically, but I
- 9 know that Detective Leonard visited pharmacies
- 10 and inquired of and, you know, asked multiple
- 11 questions. And at that point when it began the
- 12 investigation, as I stated before, OARRS was
- 13 not what it is today. It was much more
- 14 difficult to put these types of cases together
- 15 because it relied heavily on patients
- 16 responding to law enforcement, and that was a
- 17 really difficult thing to get people to do.
- When did OARRS become what it is 18 Q. 19 today?
- 20 Well, it continues to evolve. I
- 21 mean, 2013 and 2014 there really became an
- 22 enhanced promotion to use it. There was
- 23 legislation, I think it was in '13 and maybe
- 24 went into effect in '14, right around that
- 25 time, giving access for different uses of law

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- 1 enforcement, pharmacists and doctors, and
  - 2 that's really, again, when this public
  - 3 awareness campaign began about making sure
  - 4 people understood the risks and the addictive
  - 5 nature.
    - Q. Well, but I'm -- again, I'm
  - 7 focusing on when did things change with OARRS?
  - 8 A. So it's changed multiple times.
  - Q. Well, when did OARRS -- let me ask
  - 10 you another question. When did OARRS start --
  - 11 when -- when did OARRS first have a significant
  - 12 impact on diversion?
  - 13 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - 14 A. From the County's perspective,
  - 15 OARRS had a significant impact on diversion

  - 16 around '13 and '14, and -- and I would say that
  - 17 because of the grand scale at that time.
  - 18 It certainly had an impact, and
  - 19 significant impact, when our law enforcement
  - 20 officers were using it in the late 2000s and --
  - 21 and early teens as well. It was a new tool.
  - 22 But certainly, you know, it wasn't admissible
  - 23 in court. It was -- I called it, like, it was
  - 24 sort of like a dull butter knife. It -- it
  - 25 helped, but it -- it wasn't very precise and --

MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

- 3 A. I -- I don't know the numbers.
- Q. Do you know how -- what the numbers 5 were overall of how many patients he prescribed
- 6 to?

1 him.

2

- 7 A. No, but I know that it was
- 8 hundreds. I mean, I -- I can remember reading
- 9 that in the paper. It was hundreds of people, 10 yes.
- 11 Q. And what -- what was the
- 12 involvement of his three employees?
- A. I recall that they were taking cash 13
- 14 for, you know, filling, essentially, some 15 prescriptions, or tak- -- or not -- they were
- 16 taking cash for the doctor visits and there was
- 17 a lack of recording and reporting of the
- 18 dollars coming through the doors. Beyond that, 19 I can't recall what the employees' involvement
- 20 was.
- 21 Q. Where were -- where were his
- 22 prescriptions filled?
- 23 A. I'm sure that they were filled all
- 24 over Summit County. 25
  - Were any pharmacies investigated or

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Page 142 Page 144 1 and could not be used for the ultimate question 1 changed Dr. Harper's. 2 that would be called into court in a criminal Q. All right. Let me ask you, then, 3 about the other doctor who's identified in this 3 case. 4 response. Brian Heim? 4 Q. And that was because it wasn't 5 admissible? 5 A. Yes. A. Correct. 6 Am I pronouncing that right? 7 Q. And when did that change? 7 That's the way I say it, yes. 8 8 A. I don't know that it has. I -- I What did he do? 9 don't know that --A. The same. He was writing 10 Q. Okay. 10 prescriptions that wouldn't comport with the --11 with his oath; that I -- I believe he was 11 A. -- it's admissible even today. Q. Well, when -- what changed 12 12 another one who was known in the community as 13 that made it have an impact that it hadn't had 13 someone you could get an opioid prescription 14 before? 14 from. 15 A. Legislatively there were more folks 15 O. Well, it's not a crime to not 16 who were able --16 comply with your doctor's oath, is it? 17 Before, you -- I recall prosecutors A. I suppose it depends on how far you 17 18 weren't able to access it. I don't believe 18 stray, but no, not in and of itself. 19 when I started as a prosecutor any of us had Q. What he was convicted of was 20 something different, correct? 20 access to it. 21 21 A. Correct. It just became a tool -- I think 22 there was some changes in 2009, and then in '13 22 Q. How many patients did -- did he 23 and '14 there was some pressure, publicly, from 23 have; do you know? 24 law enforcement and public health and ADM, not 24 A. I don't know the answer to that. 25 just in Summit County, but across the state, 25 Q. Were there any other doctors Page 143 Page 145 1 that this was a tool that more people needed to 1 that -- who are not listed in this response 2 be using: that doctors needed to use it, the 2 that you're aware of? 3 pharmacists needed to use it, and it needed to A. Dr. Bressi. There are a number of 4 be more widely known to be used in 4 doctors. I can't -- I -- I can't come up with 5 investigatory purposes. 5 the names, but there are at least a handful I'm When were doctors first required to 6 sure that I've read about and have seen and am O. 7 use it? 7 aware of. A. First required? I don't think they 8 Q. How do you spell Bressi? 9 were required until that '13-'14 time. I --9 A. B-r-e-s-s-i, I believe. 10 I --10 O. What did Dr. Bressi do? 11 Q. Are you sure about that? A. He was -- a lot of the same thing. 12 A. I don't know for sure, though. 12 But I believe he was the one who switched from 13 That's when it stands out to me as being very 13 being a gynecologist to being a pain management 14 prominently discussed. 14 specialist. 15 Q. Have doctors ever been disciplined 15 Q. More lucrative. 16 for not using it? 16 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 17 A. I don't know the answer to that. 17 MS. WINNER: I withdraw it. 18 Q. Have they ever been prosecuted for 18 Was Dr. Bressi convicted? 19 not using it? 19 A. Yes. 20 A. I don't know if that's a part of 20 O. When? A. I don't know the answer to that. 21 the prosecutions that -- that happened. 21 22 Q. I take it having access to OARRS 22 Within the last five years. 23 would not have changed Dr. Harper's behavior? 23 Where was he operating? 24 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 24 A. In Summit County. I don't recall 25 A. I can't speak to what would have 25 where he was.

Page 146 Page 148 1 Q. Was Dr. Harper's operation what you 1 conducted last year? 2 would consider to be a pill mill? A. I -- I don't know the exact number. 3 Like the Summit County Drug Unit or all across 3 A. Yes. 4 4 Summit County? How about Dr. Heim? O. 5 Yes. 5 Q. Either one. How about Dr. Bressi? 6 Q. 6 A. No, but the -- yeah. No, I don't. 7 7 Yes. Q. Okay. Α. Are there any statistics on how 8 A. No to both. O. 9 much diversion has occurred in Summit County 9 Q. Do you know the answer to that 10 question for any year? 10 each year? A. I mean, we know how many pills were A. I believe I read something that you 11 12 prescribed. But I -- again, with diversion 12 just put in front of me from 2016 for the 13 being -- taking so many forms, I -- I don't 13 Summit County Drug Unit. There -- there was a 14 know that we have the -- the percentages. 14 number in there. Q. How do you know how many pills were 15 Q. It was a very small number of 15 16 prescribed? 16 indictments? 17 A. We have that data from OARRS. And 17 A. Yeah. But I -- that was like a 18 I've seen it through the public health 18 six -- it was a six-month period, so if you can 19 department as well as the ADM Board. 19 assume that it doubles, sure. 20 Q. Where did they get it? 20 Q. Do you know of any other source of 21 From -- from the OARRS data. 21 statistics on that subject? A. 22 So the ultimate -- the ultimate 22 A. The sheriff's annual report, I 23 source is the OARRS data? 23 reviewed those, and I know that in those there 24 24 was graphs -- or charts, really, that talk A. Correct. 25 Are you aware of any diversion 25 about the different drugs and -- and what's Page 147 Page 149 1 occurring outside Summit County that has had an 1 been investigated. 2 impact within Summit County? 2 Q. Any other sources of information A. I -- certainly there were instances 3 for that? 4 where folks who could not -- who went across A. Just my discussions with the 5 state lines or county lines to obtain different 5 detectives. You know, Detective Leonard and 6 prescriptions, yes, certainly that happened. 6 Detective Baker-Stella. Just those 7 Q. How often? 7 conversations. 8 8 O. Who does Detective Baker-Stella A. I don't know. Q. Do you know what percentage of the 9 work for? 10 diversion that's affected Summit County comes 10 A. She works for the Summit County 11 from outside Summit County? 11 Sheriff's Office, but she is assigned as the 12 A. I don't. 12 task force officer for the DEA for the 13 department. Q. Has any of that diversion from 14 outside Summit County involved, you know, drug 14 Q. And what did you discuss with her? 15 trafficking organizations as opposed to just 15 A. I talked to her a little bit about 16 individuals? Do you know? 16 just finding out when she made the transition 17 A. I suspect it could. Certainly 17 to being the task force officer and what her 18 there are cases where cocaine, heroin, things 18 duties are now and some of the work that she's 19 like that are trafficked in, in addition to 300 19 done in Summit County. 20 pills or something like that. Certainly 20 I asked her specifically about 21 that -- those instances have happened. 21 ARCOS, because it was completely unfamiliar to 22 me until this lawsuit, and if she had had any 22 Q. Do you know how often?

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24

25 designated to be the task force officer in

And we talked about how while she's

23 interaction with it.

A. I don't know how often.

25 drug diversion investigations Summit County

Q. Do you know how many prescription

23

- 1 tactical diver- -- or no. There's two
- 2 different diversions. One is tactical, and one
- 3 is not. I don't remember which. But in
- 4 diversion, that -- all of the sworn officers
- 5 for the sheriff's department and all the police
- 6 departments have the arresting authority and
- 7 have some training on identifying and
- 8 investigating these cases.
- 9 Q. What did she tell you about the
- 10 work she's done?
- 11 A. She indicated that she works not
- 12 just in Summit County, but she works all, sort
- 13 of, over Northeast Ohio now, and that she has
- 14 gone undercover into some doctors' offices, and
- 15 has, you know, participated in the
- 16 investigation of both prescribers and -- and
- 17 users.

1

- 18 Q. Is there anything else she's
- 19 told -- she told you about the work she's done?
- A. She talked about how she uses OARRS
- 21 a lot, that that is a primary tool for her.
- 22 And that she assists other officers who are not
- 23 as familiar, who do not have access to it, if
- 24 they have an investigation or suspect, you
- 25 know, criminal activity.

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- I think -- I think that's about it.
- 2 Q. Anything else she told you about 3 the work she does?
- 5 the work she does?
- 4 A. I think that's it. Yeah.
- 5 Q. What did she tell you about ARCOS?
- 6 A. That she'd been trained briefly on
- 7 it when she went to Quantico, but that she did
- 8 not regularly use that. That there were
- 9 analysts who work with the DEA who have --
- 10 probably my words, not hers -- more in-depth
- 11 understanding or training on -- on that
- 12 particular database.
- 13 Q. Does anybody in Summit County use
- 14 ARCOS for anything, apart from your lawyers in 14
- 15 this litigation?
- 16 A. No. And I've asked. You know,
- 17 Detective Leonard did not have access to it.
- 18 And while, again, all of our officers can
- 19 arrest for these offenses, those were the
- 20 places I'd start. They tend to be the go-to
- 21 folks when you have questions about these types 21 folks we were seeing didn't have a prior
- 22 of cases. So, no, no one had had that access.
- O. Has he asked for access?
- A. I don't know the answer to that.
- Q. Do you know whether anybody else

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- 1 in -- in either Akron or Summit County has
- 2 asked for access to ARCOS?
- 3 A. It's my understanding that it --
- 4 this was not something where access was 5 granted, that -- that there was no local access
- 6 available. In fact, it's my understanding that
- 7 none of these numbers or none of these sort of
- 8 statistics became available until the Judge in
- 9 this case ordered them released.
- 10 Q. But do you know whether they asked?
- 11 A. I don't know. I don't know that
- 12 they knew they existed.
- 13 Q. Well, okay. Let me just ask you
- 14 that straight out. Do you know whether anybody
- 15 other than Detective Baker-Stella knew about
- 16 ARCOS?
- 17 A. I don't.
- 18 Q. What did Detective Leonard -- is it
- 19 Detective Leonard?
- 20 A. It is.
- Q. What did Detective Leonard tell you
- 22 about his work?
- A. Well, I've known Detective Leonard
- 24 since my first days as a prosecutor, so we've
- 25 worked together multiple occasions. So I knew
  - Page 153

1 him from having cases with him.

- 2 And then when we met to discuss in
- 3 preparation for this deposition, he indicated
- 4 that he had not had access to ARCOS. And I
- 5 can't recall if he knew that it existed. I
- 6 don't know the answer to that.
- 7 But we talked about some of the
- 8 investigations into the doctors, and he
- 9 reminded me of how incredibly difficult those
- 10 cases were early on without OARRS access and
- 11 without mandatory reporting to OARRS and --
- 12 and -- yeah. I -- we just talked about sort of
- 13 the way we went through some cases.
- Q. Were there any investigations you
- 15 talked about other than investigations into 16 doctors?
- 17 A. Not specifically. We talked more
- 18 generally about how this seemed to create a new
- 19 population of people suffering from addiction
- 20 and a new class of felons. Again, a lot of the
- 20 and a new class of felons. Again, a for of
- 22 criminal record.
- 23 And we talked about how it really
- 24 changed our perception on treatment and how,
- 25 for better or for worse -- really, for worse --

Page 154 1 we had spent a couple of decades trying to

2 arrest our way out of addiction.

And that hopefully this epidemic, 4 if there is any silver lining, that it will

5 serve to be really the -- the spotlight will be

6 shown that -- that addiction is an illness, and

7 we have been criminalizing illness for a long

8 time. Because he -- you know, Detective

9 Leonard talks about soccer moms and the nurses

10 and having levels of empathy for them.

And again, we didn't do a good job, 12 probably, in the '80s and '90s when we were

13 trying to have this war on drugs because we

14 were just -- thought we could arrest and

15 incarcerate our -- our way out of it.

So our shifts -- and I'm off the 17 question, but our shift really -- when

18 Detective Leonard and I were talking, we talked

19 about how important drug courts became. We

20 talked about how there was this new influx.

21 And we've seen in Summit County

22 opioid addiction has flooded our communities in 22 still currently, it -- it's not uncommon to

23 such a way that we've had to increase our

24 capacity in drug courts, and we had a pretty

25 robust drug court to begin with.

Page 156 1 who were engaged in deceptions to obtain

2 dangerous drugs, yes.

3 Q. So -- so he was also investigating, 4 we'll call them, patients or users, however you

5 want to refer to them. Was there anybody else who -- any

7 other category he was investigating?

A. I don't believe so.

Q. Now, OARRS made a significant

10 difference in the ability to investigate

11 diversion; is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

9

13 Q. And you said there were changes in

14 around 2013, 2014?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Why -- why weren't those changes

17 instituted earlier?

A. Well, it was a legislative change

19 allowing more access, I guess is the best way 20 to put it.

21 And, you know, at that time, and

23 find legislators who believe that addiction is

24 a moral issue rather than a medical, and so

25 it's -- that's a big boulder to push up the

Page 155

1 And really intentional about

2 messaging on this. That while they may be in

3 the criminal justice system, criminal justice

4 system recognizes that addiction is an illness

5 and how do we rehabilitate that better than 6 just incarcerating?

Q. I was asking you about what he told 8 you about his investigations.

A. Yeah.

10 MS. KEARSE: I'm going to object.

11 Counsel, you asked her what did you talk about.

12 You left it more open.

13 Q. Well -- well, whatever.

14 What else did he tell you about his

15 investigations, if anything?

A. He talked to me about driving from

17 place to place in trying to get the cooperation

18 of the patients. And he talked about -- I

19 can't recall anything else about the

20 investigations.

21 Q. Well, let me ask you this. Did he

22 identify anybody other than doctors that he was

23 investigating?

A. Oh, he certainly investigated

25 individuals who were forging drug documents and

1 hill.

2 And the administration tended to

3 be, for a time period, more concerned about the

4 criminal penalties: making sure that we were

5 prosecuting doctors; and making sure that we

6 were looking at folks who were using and who

7 were addicted; looking at changing the bulk

8 amounts, and things like that. Looking,

9 really, at the criminal side of things and --

10 and how to use those penalties, I guess, in a

11 way, rather than looking at ways to combat it,

12 prevent it, stop it before it starts. Things

13 like that.

17

14 Q. So you think it was a mistake for

15 broader access to OARRS not being made

16 available earlier?

MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

18 A. I think when you know better, you

19 do better. So, I -- you know. I don't ever

20 like to assume nefarious intent. I certainly

21 don't think legislators wanted people to get 22 hooked on opioids and end up shooting heroin in

23 a gas station bathroom, no.

24 So I think also that change came

25 about when there was a real sort of -- the

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Page 158 Page 160 1 awakening was beginning that these pills that 1 you're not able to find out where they came 2 were once promoted as being non-addictive were 2 from? 3 certainly the very opposite of that. 3 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. Q. Now, OAR- -- access to OARRS is 4 A. I would -- I -- I don't know that I 5 still limited, correct? Not every person can 5 can answer that. I -- I don't know that I'm 6 get access? 6 comfortable answering that one. I would say that -- that primarily A. Correct. And even those who have 7 8 access, you can't just jump on and noodle 8 when they come into contact with law 9 around. It's got to be for a specific patient 9 enforcement, if they're -- if they're a 10 or a specific purpose. 10 first-time offender, meaning it's their first Q. And none of the Defendants have 11 interaction with law enforcement, they 12 access to OARRS, do they? 12 typically are willing to talk, because our law 13 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 13 enforcement community has been trained to get 14 A. I don't know the answer to that. 14 folks to talk to them and let them know that, 15 Q. When Summit County comes across a 15 you know, now in Summit County with these 16 situation involving diverted opioid --16 felony 5s, you're not going to jail tonight. 17 prescription opioids, what effort is made to 17 You're going to get a summons. We're going to 18 trace the source and origin of those opioids? 18 ask you to come in on a certain day, and what A. I suppose it depends on how they 19 can we do to try and get you some help to get 20 come into contact with those diverted opioids. 20 that started. 21 If it's a law enforcement contact, certainly 21 Q. Well, but more generally, not just 22 focusing just on the first-time offenders --22 many of the officers and detectives will simply 23 ask, "Where did you get it?" And by and large, 23 A. Uh-huh. 24 24 there are two different answers. It's, "I Q. -- more generally, can you estimate 25 don't know. Not mine. Not my purse. Not my 25 what percentage of the time you're able to find Page 159 Page 161 1 pants. Not my car." Or, you know, there's no 1 out --2 response. They don't want to talk about it. 2 A. I couldn't --3 Occasionally folks are willing to Q. -- where the pills came from? 4 share their story, and typically it's 4 A. I couldn't estimate that. 5 Q. When Summit County responds to an 5 first-time arrestees, unsophisticated in the 6 ways of law enforcement. But then that process 6 overdose incident that involves heroin or 7 typically goes into one of our drug courts or 7 fentanyl, do you try to find out if that person 8 are treatment in lieu of conviction now, so 8 has been prescribed opioids previously? A. Yes. Our -- our detectives who 9 they have contact with a caseworker and a 10 probation officer. 10 investigate those, I believe, have OARRS 11 access. And certainly if it's, unfortunately, If we come into contact with those 12 a -- a death -- an overdose death, our medical 12 diverted pills now, occasionally it's through 13 examiner has that access as well. 13 some of our programming. We've got an 14 emergency room program where folks can walk in, Q. Do you know what percentage of the 15 and it is treated as a medical emergency if 15 time the person has previously had an opioid 16 they've -- and if they have drugs on them, on 16 prescription? 17 their person, there's typically some leniency 17 A. I don't know that percentage. Q. Does Summit County know how many 18 from law enforcement that if they're seeking 19 prescription opioids were consumed in Summit 19 help that -- that they're not going to be 20 County in any given year? 20 arrested for being in possession. 21 A. Consumed? But there's always an effort made

41 (Pages 158 - 161)

22

23

24

25

Q.

A.

Q. Consumed.

A. No. Prescribed? Yes.

And prescribed, that's from OARRS?

24 got them.

25

22 to try and find out, but it -- it's -- folks

23 are pretty reluctant to talk about where they

Q. So would you say most of the time

Page 162 Page 164 Q. And who puts the information into 1 OARRS, and I think you said that Dr. Smith --2 OARRS that -- from which that statistic is 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. -- uses OARRS. 3 derived? 4 Does anybody else in the County use A. I believe there's a requirement 4 5 OARRS for anything? 5 that doctors use it, as well as pharmacists. Q. How long has that been in place? 6 A. Probation officers have access to 7 OARRS. And it's my understanding, you know, 7 A. Again, I feel like that big change 8 if -- as part of your probation, you are 8 came in -- in '13-'14. Q. Okay. So do you -- would you know 9 required to give urine screens. You know, if 10 you come up positive for an opioid, certainly 10 how many prescriptions -- or would you have the 11 ability to find out how many prescriptions were 11 they would be looking to see if, in fact, you 12 pres- -- how many opioids were prescribed in 12 had a valid prescription. 13 Summit County in, say, 2011? 13 And I believe the drug court 14 judges, through the probation officers, use A. Well, I think it's a best guess, 15 because I don't think it was mandatory 15 some OARRS data. 16 reporting. I think a lot -- a lot was being The medical examiner, in very 16 17 reported, but I don't believe it was mandatory 17 limited situations. And, obviously, we don't employ 18 at that time. So it would -- I guess for lack 18 19 physicians outside of our medical examiner's 19 of a better term, it would be underreported, 20 the numbers that we have. 20 office, but physicians in Summit County and 21 pharmacists in Summit County have access. 21 Q. Has Summit County ever sought the 22 22 assistance of the board of pharmacy in using Q. But they have access -- okay. 23 data that the board has from OARRS or otherwise 23 Strike that. 24 Does Summit County have any 24 to help combat diversion? 25 policies that require anyone to -- employed by 25 A. I know that our public health Page 165 1 department and our ADM Board interface with the 1 the County to use OARRS for anything? 2 pharmacy board in an effort to make sure that A. I don't know that it's a written 3 we have good data. 3 policy with the sheriff's department that 4 requires them to use OARRS. But certainly it 4 I don't know the specifics of it 5 other than I know that, you know, Dr. Smith 5 would be one of the best investigata- --6 investi---6 from ADM has OARRS data access. And obviously 7 7 there's a public dashboard for OARRS that I Q. Investigative. 8 know gets used. I would -- I'm sure it's daily A. -- thank you -- tools; that there 9 would be an expectation that it would be used 9 with some -- some of the public health staff. Q. Anybody else -- any- -- anything 10 10 in these. I -- I don't know if it's a -- if 11 it's a written policy from the Sheriff. 11 else that's done to interface with the board of 12 pharmacy? 12 O. And that would be Detective 13 A. I -- I mean, in the prosecutor's 13 Leonard? 14 A. It would be any of them. Detective 14 office, I don't recall a pharmacist being 15 prosecuted. I don't recall that ever 15 Leonard's employed by the Akron Police 16 happening. So I -- I don't think so. I don't 16 Department --17 recall the County touching the board of 17 Q. I'm sorry. 18 pharmacy in any other fashion. A. -- but -- but he really -- his 19 reputation is the guy who knows this stuff. Q. Does anyone other than -- okay. 20 And while everyone who works for the Akron 20 Just to make sure I've -- I've -- we've touched 21 on OARRS before, I don't want to repeat what 21 Police Department in a uniformed capacity in --

42 (Pages 162 - 165)

23

24

22 in the detective bureau --

O. Uh-huh.

A. -- they make those arrests and they

25 do those investigations as well, but certainly

22 we've already covered, but you talked about how

Q. -- and Detective Leonard uses

23 Detective Baker-Stella uses OARRS --

A. Uh-huh.

24

Page 166 1 he's somebody they could call. And Detective

- 2 Baker-Stella for the sheriff's office, the
- 3 same.
- 4 I think the investigations occur,
- 5 you know, on the street level, but if there's
- 6 questions or, you know, a deeper dive needs to
- 7 occur, I think those are the two folks who
- 8 typically get contacted with questions.
- 9 Q. Does anybody other than those two
- 10 have direct access to OARRS within law
- 11 enforcement?
- 12 A. I know in Summit County, Carmen
- 13 Ingram, who works for the Summit County
- 14 sheriff's office, and she works with the drug
- 15 task force -- or the Summit County Drug Unit,
- 16 she has access, and then Captain Paolino also
- 17 has access.
- 18 Q. Anyone else?
- 19 A. I don't think so.
- Q. Does anyone have access in any of
- 21 the other, you know, townships throughout
- 22 Summit County?
- A. I -- yes, I'm sure that there are
- 24 officers. I've personally worked with officers
- 25 who have used OARRS data or OARRS reports.

- Page 168
- 1 luck." There wasn't a lot of intensive
- 2 training for law enforcement, and I think our
- 3 officers now have more specific training.
- 4 Q. Does Summit County receive any
- 5 access to any suspicious order reports about
- 6 pharmaceutical orders placed by pharmacies?
  - A. I -- you mean like this -- do our
- 8 detectives receive that information? I
- 9 don't --
- 10 Q. Anybody in the County, apart from
- 11 the lawyers representing you in this
- 12 litigation.

14

21

- 13 A. Yeah. I don't --
  - Q. We're always excluding them.
- 15 A. Sure.
- MS. KEARSE: Gee, thanks. You want
- 17 us to leave?
- MS. WINNER: Sure. Go ahead.
- 19 A. I don't -- I don't know. I don't
- 20 know if they receive that information.
  - Q. All right. Well, we talked
- 22 about -- we've talked about OARRS. We've
- 23 talked a little bit about ARCOS.
- Are there any other database
- 25 resources that Summit County has access to to

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- Q. Going back to back when you were a
- 2 prosecutor?

1

- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So law enforcement did have --
- 5 A. Some access.
- 6 O. -- some access?
- 7 A. Some access.
- 8 Q. What's the difference between the
- 9 access they had before and what they have now?
- 10 A. I feel like there's more
- 11 information. I haven't seen an OARRS report
- 12 post-'14 because I was no longer a prosecutor.
- But I -- as -- in my discussions
- 14 with Detective Leonard and -- and the things
- 15 that I've read about the sort of evolution of
- 16 OARRS, I believe there's more information. And
- 17 with the mandatory reporting part of it, I
- 18 think is really what changed things.
- 19 Q. So there's more information because
- 20 more is going in?
- 21 A. I think so. I think so. And I --
- 22 I think there's a better understanding of how
- 23 to use it now.
- I think when it was first
- 25 available, it was kind of like, "Hmm, good

- 1 detect or combat diversion?
- A. I -- I don't think there are any,
- 3 like, government-function databases. As I
- 4 stated, there's a data dashboard that the
- 5 public health department and ADM work hand in
- 6 glove on making sure those are accurate numbers
- 7 that the public can access and can be used by
- 8 law enforcement if -- if that's what they're
- 9 looking for.
- 10 Q. Are there any other database
- 11 resources that the County has to detect or
- 12 combat diversion?
- 13 A. I don't believe so. None that -- I
- 14 should say none that I'm aware of.
- 15 Q. Are there any other government
- 16 agencies that the County reaches out to for
- 17 assistance in detecting or combatting
- 18 diversion?
- 19 A. Certainly the DEA, with Detective
- 20 Baker-Stella being a task force member.
- 21 Detective Leonard is also a task force
- 22 member -- task force officer with the DEA.
- 23 And there are FBI task force
- 24 officers who work in the same proximity as our
- 25 Summit County Drug Unit, the Akron narcotics

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- 1 division, so I know that the FBI is also called
- 2 upon to assist in investigations. Whether
- 3 they're specifically targeted at diversion, I
- 4 couldn't say, but they all work in the same
- 5 building together on many cases.
- Q. Well, there is a -- a HIDTA task
- 7 force that Summit County participates in,
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. Correct.
- Q. And HIDTA is H-I-D-T-A, High 10
- 11 Intensity Drug Trafficking --
- 12 A. Area.
- 13 O. -- Area?
- 14 A. Correct.
- Q. Does that task force get involved 15
- 16 in -- in investigating diversion?
- A. I think as -- as necessary, yes. 17
- Q. What percentage of its efforts
- 19 relate to diversion?
- 20 A. I don't know.
- 21 Q. Has Summit County ever reached out
- 22 to any of the Defendants for assistance in
- 23 combatting diversion?
- A. I know that we have sought and been
- 25 granted a grant from Cardinal with sort of the

- Page 172 1 bags for the Summit County Public Health
  - 2 Department.
  - 3 But I'm not aware of any specific
  - 4 formal request to any of the Defendants, other
  - 5 than the public health grant with Cardinal that
  - 6 we've made.

8

- 7 Q. What's a Deterra bag?
  - A. It's -- essentially it looks like a
- 9 foil, probably 5 inches by 8 or 10 inches, that
- 10 you can use at home. It has a carbon --
- 11 "science magic" in it.
- 12 Q. Uh-huh.
- 13 A. Dump the pills in, put a little bit
- 14 of water in it, seal it up, and the pills
- 15 essentially disintegrate, and it's safe to
- 16 dispose of. So it's a safe way to dispose of
- 17 your unused medications at home.
- Q. Do you know whether Summit County
- 19 has ever reached out to any of the Defendants,
- 20 either formally or informally, for assistance
- 21 in dealing with any other aspect of the opioid
- 22 problem, such as a pharmacy that -- or a
- 23 problem doctor, anything like that?
- 24 A. I'm not aware of any direct
- 25 contact.

1

4

14

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- 1 long-term goal being less opioids in Summit
- 2 County, yes.
- 3 Q. Anything else?
- 4 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. Has Summit County reached out to
- 6 any of the manufacturing -- Manufacturer
- 7 Defendants for assistance in connection with
- 8 the opioid problem?
- MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 10 A. I -- I mean, reached out.
- 11 Formally?
- 12 Q. In any way. And I don't -- other
- 13 than filing this lawsuit. We'll not count
- 14 that.
- 15 A. I've forgotten about them already.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. I don't know. Perhaps there are
- 18 other grants that were funded --
- 19 Q. Uh-huh.
- A. -- in some way, shape or form by 20
- 21 manufacturers or distributors. I know that we
- 22 have worked with -- they're -- they're --
- 23 they're not named as a defendant, but some of
- 24 the pharmacies, I think, that are listed in
- 25 some of the interrogatories carry the Deterra

- Q. Are you aware of any indirect 2 contact?
- 3 A. No. No, I should -- no.
  - Q. In your -- do you believe that the
- 5 State has done as much as it should to help
- 6 combat the opioid problem?
- 7 A. Well, the State didn't create the
- 8 opioid problem. So my opinion on their
- 9 response to it, I think, could have been
- 10 swifter or more robust, but they didn't create
- 11 this problem.
- 12 Q. But you have, in fact, been highly
- 13 critical of the State's response, have you not?
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 15 A. I think some people think I
- 16 probably wasn't critical enough, but I
- 17 certainly was vocal about the need in my
- 18 community for a response and for the dollars
- 19 that were needed to respond to this crisis.
- Q. Did you sponsor a resolution on the 20 21 subject in the state legislature?
- 22 A. I believe I did, yes. Oh, yes, I
- 23 did. Absolutely. Yes, I did.
- Q. And what happened to that
- 25 resolution?

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Page 174 Page 176 1 A. Oh, it went absolutely nowhere. 1 more money in our medical examiner's office. 2 Yes. 2 We had to bring up the mobile 3 Q. And why was that? 3 morgue five times in 2016, and that costs A. Well, it was sponsored by myself 4 money. We had to send out all these samples 5 and two other Democrats, and we were -- it's an 5 from the medical examiner's office to be tested 6 essential super minority in the state House. 6 because we didn't have the right equipment, 7 this \$300 -- \$300,000 machine to test this. 7 So outnumbered three to one without a 8 Republican sponsor, I don't believe we even got 8 So I wanted more attention paid to 9 a first hearing on it. 9 my constituents. I had a platform, and -- and, Q. Were the -- was the Republican 10 yes, I wish there had been more time and money 10 11 majority hostile to the idea? 11 and talent and treasure spent on it, but it 12 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 12 wasn't the State's fault. 13 A. I mean, hostility can take many 13 Q. If the State had done more, would 14 forms, and silence is one of them. So to me, 14 it have helped the situation? 15 as the representative serving Summit County, 15 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 16 there was a lack of response that was being 16 A. It may have mitigated some part, 17 felt by the people in this community. They 17 but we were already in a crisis. I mean, 18 felt that this epidemic should have been the 18 again, there was this decade-long head start 19 number one priority at that time, and there was 19 where these people were so deeply addicted, 20 a --20 throwing a million dollars at their feet may 21 21 not have saved them. My --The State was doing things. The 22 State was working on it. But you have to 22 Q. So you're saying that it wouldn't 23 understand, in 2016, when I sponsored that 23 have made any difference? If the State had --24 resolution, people's kids were dying, and dying 24 A. I don't know. 25 in my district specifically. I represented the 25 -- helped more, it wouldn't have Page 175 Page 177 1 number one ZIP code for overdose in Summit 1 made any difference? 2 County, and I literally couldn't go anywhere 2 A. I don't know. 3 without somebody telling me about their kid. I know that when I was saying those 4 And so hostility? I would have 4 things and sponsoring that, that that was the 5 been grateful to have a conversation about it. 5 amplification of the voices of my community. 6 Because the State didn't create this problem, It's -- you know, it's not a 7 but I do believe that they had an obligation to 7 secret, as I sit here, as I've told you, 8 respond to the needs of the citizens, and I 8 that -- that resolution wasn't going to go 9 felt like more response was warranted. But I 9 anywhere, and I knew that. I didn't introduce 10 don't lay the blame for people dying at the 10 it to -- with the expectation it would pass. I 11 State's feet. 11 introduced it with the expectation that the 12 Q. If the State had done more, would 12 people in Summit County would feel that someone 13 it have helped the situation? 13 in the state House was hearing them and 14 responding to them, because --14 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 15 A. The opioid crisis had a decade head 15 I don't know where you're from, but 16 start on us. People were so deeply addicted 16 in Summit County it was the most desperate time 17 and were so deeply affected by this epidemic 17 I have ever seen, and I have lived here for 18 that, yeah, I wanted the governor to dump 18 over 20 years. Every day of my adult life I 19 millions of dollars into Summit County. We 19 have lived in Summit County. People were so 20 still would have had people dying. We still 20 desperate for anything. It was that time to 21 did have people dying. I mean, we still do 21 throw everything at the wall to see what 22 have people dying every -- every day. Not 22 sticks, because that's how critical the 23 nearly at the rate they were dying, luckily, in 23 casualties were coming. 24 2016. But, you know, we needed more treatment 24 Q. Are there any laws, policies, or 25 beds. We needed more caseworkers. We needed 25 procedures that restrict the discretion of law

45 (Pages 174 - 177)

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1 enforcement officers or prosecutors to	1 strategy to that, that requires probably
2 investigate or pursue individuals for	2 more
3 opioid-related misconduct?	3 It requires a different strategy to
4 A. Boy, that was a long one.	4 investigate a doctor who you suspect of of
5 Q. Yep.	5 prescribing outside of of what they should
6 MS. KEARSE: I'll object to the	6 be doing versus somebody who is inherently
7 form.	7 doing illegal activity. There's no
8 A. Okay.	8 protections. They are not licensed to
9 Q. I I think that's fair. Let	9 distribute, and all of the drugs they're
10 me	10 distributing are classified as illegal to begin
11 A. Okay.	11 with.
12 Q. Let me try it again.	12 Q. So what you're saying is that when
13 A. Okay.	13 you refer to the blanket of legality, is that
MS. KEARSE: I was going to ask to	14 doctors are legally authorized to prescribe
15 break for lunch soon.	15 opioids to people?
16 Q. Are there any laws, policies, or	16 A. Right.
17 procedures	17 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
18 A. Okay.	18 A. And their that's part of their
19 Q that restrict the discretion	19 job, essentially, is what a community believes.
20 let's just start with law enforcement to	20 And that, I think, stretches to the
21 investigate or arrest individuals for	21 distributors and manufacturers of the
22 opioid-related misconduct?	22 medications that are being prescribed, this
23 A. I mean, HIPAA is in place. I mean,	23 inherent trust that when I go to the doctor,
24 you can't, you know, ask someone to divulge	24 the doctor is smart and has all the good
25 their medical history.	25 information and is going to give me something
23 then medical history.	23 information and is going to give the something
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1 I I guess I'm not is that	1 that's going to help me and and won't cause
1 I I guess I'm not is that 2 what you're asking? I don't I don't	<ul><li>1 that's going to help me and and won't cause</li><li>2 me harm in the future.</li></ul>
1 I I guess I'm not is that 2 what you're asking? I don't I don't 3 Q. I'm asking if there's anything	<ol> <li>that's going to help me and and won't cause</li> <li>me harm in the future.</li> <li>Q. Well, but I I I'm not talking</li> </ol>
1 I I guess I'm not is that 2 what you're asking? I don't I don't 3 Q. I'm asking if there's anything 4 A. I don't know	<ol> <li>that's going to help me and and won't cause</li> <li>me harm in the future.</li> <li>Q. Well, but I I I'm not talking</li> <li>about anything that gets in the way. I'm just</li> </ol>
1 I I guess I'm not is that 2 what you're asking? I don't I don't 3 Q. I'm asking if there's anything	<ol> <li>that's going to help me and and won't cause</li> <li>me harm in the future.</li> <li>Q. Well, but I I I'm not talking</li> </ol>
1 I I guess I'm not is that 2 what you're asking? I don't I don't 3 Q. I'm asking if there's anything 4 A. I don't know 5 Q that gets in the way. 6 A. Well, certainly. I mean	<ol> <li>that's going to help me and and won't cause</li> <li>me harm in the future.</li> <li>Q. Well, but I I I'm not talking</li> <li>about anything that gets in the way. I'm just</li> </ol>
1 I I guess I'm not is that 2 what you're asking? I don't I don't 3 Q. I'm asking if there's anything 4 A. I don't know 5 Q that gets in the way.	<ol> <li>that's going to help me and and won't cause</li> <li>me harm in the future.</li> <li>Q. Well, but I I I'm not talking</li> <li>about anything that gets in the way. I'm just</li> <li>talking specifically about laws or policies.</li> </ol>
1 I I guess I'm not is that 2 what you're asking? I don't I don't 3 Q. I'm asking if there's anything 4 A. I don't know 5 Q that gets in the way. 6 A. Well, certainly. I mean	<ol> <li>that's going to help me and and won't cause</li> <li>me harm in the future.</li> <li>Q. Well, but I I I'm not talking</li> <li>about anything that gets in the way. I'm just</li> <li>talking specifically about laws or policies.</li> <li>A. I feel like you said hurdles, and</li> </ol>
1 I I guess I'm not is that 2 what you're asking? I don't I don't 3 Q. I'm asking if there's anything 4 A. I don't know 5 Q that gets in the way. 6 A. Well, certainly. I mean 7 Q. In terms of laws, policies, or	<ol> <li>that's going to help me and and won't cause</li> <li>me harm in the future.</li> <li>Q. Well, but I I I'm not talking</li> <li>about anything that gets in the way. I'm just</li> <li>talking specifically about laws or policies.</li> <li>A. I feel like you said hurdles, and</li> <li>so that was where I went to.</li> </ol>
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p 192	D 194
Page 182	Page 184
2 (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 9,	2 Q prescription opioids are
3 12/12/2018 Letter from Atty Anne	3 controlled substances, correct?
4 Kearse to Atty Sara Roitman, was	4 A. Yes.
5 marked for purposes of	5 Q. And because they're controlled
6 identification.)	6 substances, a patient cannot legally get an
7	7 opioid without a prescription; is that correct?
8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record at	8 A. That's correct.
9 1:10.	9 Q. And only certain licensed medical
10 MS. WINNER: Is there anybody on	10 professionals, like doctors and dentists and
11 the phone who has not yet entered an	11 nurse practitioners, are allowed to write
12 appearance?	12 prescriptions, correct?
13 (No response.)	13 A. Correct.
MS. WINNER: Hearing nothing, we	14 Q. And in order to write a
15 will go forward.	15 prescription for a controlled substance, a
16 I have asked the reporter to mark	16 practitioner has to have a license from the
17 as Exhibit 9 a letter from Anne Kearse to Sara	17 State and from and from the DEA, correct?
18 Roitman dated December 12, 2018. And I'm	18 A. That's my understanding.
19 mostly just marking this for the record.	19 Q. Now, individuals who are addicted
20 And, Ms. Kearse, I'm asking you if	20 to opioids often have mental health disorders, 21 correct?
21 you will confirm that this letter accurately	
22 lists the topics on which this witness has been 23 designated, with the exception of 4, 5, 6, and	MS. KEARSE: Object to form.  A. I think there's a prevalence of
24 19, which need to be added to the list?	24 dual diagnosis, certainly, of addiction and
25 MS. KEARSE: Yeah, to the extent	25 mental health. They can go hand in hand,
1 I'm not being deposed today, but I believe this 2 is accurate. 3 MS. WINNER: Okay. Well 4 MS. KEARSE: With the no, 5 this this should be I I didn't look at 6 what else I wasn't looking at Wendy and I 7 was just looking at the notice today for Greta 8 Johnson. 9 MS. WINNER: Yeah, that's the only 10 one I'm focusing on. 11 MS. KEARSE: Yeah. So that is my 12 understanding, that's accurate except for the 13 written the 4, 5, 6, 19. Yep. 14 MS. WINNER: Those those would 15 need to be added to the ones that are listed 16 here for Greta Johnson, correct? 17 MS. KEARSE: Yes. Because I 18 suggested we do those in written form, and 19 and you did not want to take me up on that 20 offer, so. 21 MS. WINNER: Thank you. Just 22 wanted to make sure our record was clear on	1 certainly. 2 Q. Is it common for individuals who 3 are addicted to opioids to be addicted to more 4 than one substance? 5 A. I don't know a percentage, but I 6 don't think that's an unfair statement. I 7 think that different substances can certainly 8 play a role. We talked about people using 9 different ones before. Yes. 10 Q. Do people sometimes use alcohol and 11 opioids? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. And do people are there some 14 people who are addicted to alcohol before they 15 become addicted to opioids? 16 A. I'm sure there are. 17 Q. All right. I want to turn now to a 18 different subject. Some of our different 19 topics. 20 A. Okay. 21 Q. And you've been designated to 22 testify about the harms that the Plaintiffs
23 which topics she's here on.	23 have suffered and their efforts to mitigate
24 BY MS. WINNER:	24 them. And I just want to start off, you you
25 Q. Ms. Johnson	25 personally have been quoted in the press as

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Page 188 Page 186 1 saying that Summit County has spent nearly 1 again, like I said, my recollection is, what 2 \$200 million during the past decade trying to 2 are we looking at here on -- I call it on the 3 keep up with the cost of addiction. Do you 3 eighth floor versus countywide. 4 remember giving that statement? Q. Well, the -- am I correct in --A. I remember that statement occurring 5 from what you just said that -- that you do 6 not, yourself, know how the \$200 million figure 6 a couple of different times from myself and 7 from the executive. And it has spanned -- I 7 was calculated? 8 think we talked about \$66 million within the A. I know that those -- those things I 9 last four or five years. We've talked about 9 just talked about, some of those things are 10 \$150 million dollars up to a quarter billion 10 what was looked at. Brian and I have discussed 11 dollars. Different numbers have been used sort 11 that we've -- you know, that was sort of our 12 of as we really take a deeper dive into what it 12 original thought, like what should we start 13 truly has cost, financially, the County. 13 looking at. 14 Q. Well, where does that -- how is 14 I'm not sure when it morphed from 15 that 200 -- how did you come up with that \$200 15 66- to 150- to 200-, to 250-, because it, quite 16 million figure? 16 frankly, I think if we looked even today, we'd 17 17 find even more dollars being spent. A. So --18 MS. KEARSE: I'm going to let you Q. Do you know what specifically is 19 and is not included in the 200 million figure? 19 answer the question. 20 I'm going to -- I'm going to put an 20 A. I don't. 21 objection down. She's going to be able to 21 Q. All right. If you look at the note 22 testify about things that have been put out 22 that -- the notice, which was Exhibit 1 today, 23 there in the public, but if it's going into a 23 and look at Topic 10. Topic 10 is "The harms that 24 damages or more in-depth, Brian Nelson is the 24 25 30(b) representative for --25 Plaintiff has incurred from the promotion, Page 187 Page 189 MS. WINNER: Understand that. 1 marketing, distribution, dispensing and/or 1 2 diversion of prescription opioids." 2 Thank you. A. So the -- the reason I've had those 3 Do you see that? 4 A. I do. 4 numbers and have put those out there is as the 5 5 chief information officer, I deal with the Q. And I'm going to take you in a 6 press and I write a lot of the speeches for the 6 minute and we're going to go into some of the 7 specifics, but my first question for you is, is 7 executive. I always get the numbers directly 8 from Brian Nelson. I rarely, if ever, know 8 the list of harms that you would come up with 9 different for any of the individual activities 9 where to start without talking to him first. 10 And I know that when we first 10 that are listed here, promotion, marketing, 11 distribution, dispensing and/or diversion? 11 started trying to take a look at that, we 12 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 12 looked really in-house what we were spending on A. No. This looks at the aggregate 13 medical examiner costs, what we were spending 13 14 harm caused in this instance, and that's --14 on indigent defense, monies that we were trying 15 to seek for drug court. So I consider those 15 that's what I feel most comfortable talking 16 in-house as far as the executive's office. 16 about in the aggregate. 17 And then we really began to look 17 Q. Okay. Have you made -- and again, 18 we're going to get into the specifics --18 outside of our own house at, countywide, the A. Sure. 19 amount of money ADM was spending, the amount of 19 20 money the health department was spending, and 20 Q. -- in a minute, but have you made 21 the number of dollars being used up at 21 any effort to consider whether the list would

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22 be different for any of the individual

23 activities that are listed --

O.

A. I have not.

-- here?

24

25

22 Children's Services. And that's not to speak

24 being provided and that sort of thing.

25

23 of, you know, the -- the costs of the treatment

So those numbers started out --

Page 190 Page 192 1 Have you thought about it? 1 to have suffered in this case? 2 A. No. Again, to me, it is an 2 A. Okay. Let me take a look. 3 3 aggregate harm to the community. Q. Sure. Go ahead. 4 Q. All right. I'd like you to pull A. I've reviewed it. Could you 5 back out --5 restate the question? 6 MS. WINNER: Oh, no, we didn't. I 6 Q. Sure. Is this an accurate list of 7 thought we already marked this. Did we mark 7 the injuries that Summit County claims to have 8 this already? I thought we did mark this. 8 suffered in this case? 9 9 Could I just see the --A. I -- I feel that it's missing some 10 THE WITNESS: Sure. 10 of the major losses that we've incurred. MS. WINNER: -- exhibits quickly? Q. Okay. What's missing? I want to 11 12 go back through the list, but before we do 12 My apologies. THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. They're 13 13 that, why don't you tell me what's missing from 14 not in order. 14 the list. 15 15 MS. WINNER: That's all right. A. The loss of human capital. And 16 You're not required to keep them in order. 16 certainly there's not a dollar figure you can 17 MS. KEARSE: You're working hard 17 put on the thousands of lives we've lost. 18 enough. Q. Is that an injury for which Summit 19 19 County is seeking damages in this case? MS. WINNER: Oh, here it is, 20 Exhibit 7. I think this is Exhibit 7. 20 A. It is, because we're seeking 21 21 damages due to the total harm caused by this Q. If you pull out Exhibit 7. 22 A. Sure. 22 epidemic. The loss of life that really 23 Q. And look at page 14. 23 exploded in 2016 created another loss, and that 24 24 was a loss of a sense of community. And when A. Okav. 25 And you see at the bottom there's 25 you talk about the aggregate harm, that is a Page 191 Page 193 1 Interrogatory 18 --1 harm that we will be trying to recover from for 2 A. I do. 2 decades. 3 Q. -- which asks for categories of 3 To declare a state of emergency in 4 injury. 4 Summit County was not something that was easily 5 Α. Uh-huh. 5 reached, because it sends an alarm bell to Q. And then for some other 6 businesses and to people seeking to relocate 7 information. But then -- if you then go to the 7 that we have a problem. And we're no different 8 response, and there's a bullet point list of 8 than anyone else, but we were the grownups in 9 categories of injury. 9 the room enough to acknowledge what the problem 10 Do you see that? 10 was and use the platform of the executive's 11 A. I do. 11 office to bring attention to it. 12 Q. Do you -- is this one of the 12 So the losses that are monetized 13 interrogatory answers that you reviewed? 13 certainly here, I know that Brian can speak to A. It is. 14 14 those directly and that Ms. Miller-Dawson can 15 Q. Does this list look familiar to 15 as well. 16 16 you? But the aggregate loss is -- is not 17 A. Yes. Sorry. 17 limited to what you can put on a paper. The 18 MS. WINNER: Are you okay? Do you 18 overwhelming sense of hopelessness that took 19 need a break? 19 over this community in 2016, you can't monetize 20 THE WITNESS: No, I'm okay. 20 that. Every single day the newspaper was 21 Q. As you understand it, does -- is 21 reporting on the overdose death rates. You 22 this a -- does this -- is everything on this 22 could not go into a community setting where 23 there were not weeping mothers talking about 23 list -- let me strike that. Is this a -- an accurate list of 24 their children. 25 the injuries that Summit County has -- claims 25 So you asked me before if I had

- 1 personal contact with it, and I'm lucky. I'm
- 2 lucky in that my family has not. But it is
- 3 personal to me when parents and community
- 4 members come to their government looking for
- 5 answers, looking for help, those can't be
- 6 monetized. Those can't be bullet-pointed,
- 7 because that loss of human capital and the loss
- 8 of trust in the community, in doctors, in
- 9 patient care, because they know now how their
- 10 kids started. They know what caused this,
- 11 and -- and that is a harm that this community
- 12 will be trying to rebuild for decades.
- 13 Q. Okay. Ms. Johnson, what I'm asking
- 14 you right now is whether there are any injuries 15 for which Summit County is seeking damages in 15
- 16 this case that are not listed in the response
- 17 that appears on pages 15 to 17 of this exhibit.
- 18 A. The medical --
- 19 (Telephonic interruption.)
- MS. WINNER: If you're on the
- 21 phone, if you would please put yourself on
- 22 mute.
- A. Are the increased costs to the
- 24 medical examiner's office listed here?
- Q. I'm sure it is. If not, we'll come
- ____

- 1 back to it.
- 2 A. The other costs that I think should
- 3 be reflected -- and again, probably tough to
- 4 monetize -- is the compassion fatigue that our
- 5 first responders and treatment providers are
- 6 incurring, and sort of the resources that we're
- 7 trying to put toward that effort of making sure
- 8 that those folks are supported, that they don't
- 9 become overwhelmed by hopelessness, and that
- 10 they don't become overwhelmed by the sheer
- 11 volume and turn cold to it.
- So there have been efforts to try
- 13 and address that, both through the medical
- 14 community and through the first responder
- 15 community and all of those things. Any time
- 16 there's an investment of time, there's an
- 17 investment of treasure, and I think that that
- 18 is something that's missing.
  - Q. Anything else?
- 20 A. I think that there's also -- the
- 21 portion that talks about the loss of tax
- 22 revenue due to the decreased efficiency and
- 23 size of the working population, I read that as
- 24 we had a lot of people die, so our population
- 25 decreased.

19

- The other part of that, opioid
  - 2 epidemic that impacts that, is that we have
  - 3 created a new class of felons who cannot seek

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Page 197

- 4 certain employment and might not be able to
- 5 seek the employment they had prior to falling
- 6 victim to addiction.
  - So I think there's -- there is a
- 8 loss that's beyond just the physical presence
- 9 of people we've lost, but also the ability of
- 10 people to work in certain fields because of the
- 11 felonization of -- of this epidemic.
- 12 Q. Anything else that's not on the
- 13 list? An injury for which Summit County seeks
- 14 damages in this case?
- 15 A. I think it could be argued that --
- 16 the very last bullet point is cost for child
- 17 services and foster care for opioid-dependent
- 18 babies and foster children, so that's just a
- 19 really small portion of it.
- 20 Our -- our Children's Service Board
- 21 had to seek an increase in their levy this
- 22 year. And levy campaigns cost money. And the
- 23 driving factor behind the request for increase
- 24 is the opioid epidemic. And so the costs of
- 25 that campaign really to try and support this
- Page 195
- 1 fundamental service I feel like could be
- 2 included with the Children's Services portion.
- 3 Q. Anything else? I'm not asking you
- 4 to explain anything that's here. I'm going to
- 5 go --

6

- A. Sure.
- Q. -- through each item that's on the
- 8 list. I just wanted to know if there's
- 9 anything else that's not on the list.
- 10 A. I don't see anything that's
- 11. I deli i bee un'y thing t
- 11 standing out right now.
- 12 Q. Okay. Well, let's go back to the 13 top of the list, then.
  - A. Okay.
- 15 Q. The first item is, "Losses caused
- 16 by the decrease in funding available for
- 17 Plaintiff's public services for which funding
- 18 was lost because it was diverted to other
- 19 public services designed to address the opioid
- 20 epidemic."
- 21 What public services -- for what
- 22 public services was funding lost because it was
- 23 diverted to other public service?
- A. Well, specifically in Summit County
- 25 we have deferred capital improvements. We've

Page 198 1 deferred, you know, what I would call 2 enhancement projects, things meant to enhance 3 our community because our resources were 4 laser-focused on the opioid epidemic. So where public health, for 6 instance, really would like to spend their time 7 promoting this T21 initiative that they have, 8 eliminating the ability for our youth to buy 8 9 tobacco products. A lot of science behind how 10 tobacco can change your brain makeup and how 11 it's important to not do that at an early age. 12 I know that that is an initiative they take 13 really seriously and wanted to promote, but it 14 really takes a back seat to the opioid 15 strategies and -- and programs. Additionally, in Summit County 16 17 we've got health issues like anyone else. I 18 didn't know that diabetes was such a huge 19 health issue in Summit County. It is. It's 20 our number one health issue, outside of 21 addiction, that -- that public health was 21 22 targeting. And -- and all of those things get 22 in my mind. 23 pushed to the side. Those important community 23 24 initiatives get pushed to the side, because 25 when people are dying immediately, you know, Page 199

1 perform several autopsies for outside agencies 2 for cost, and that was a stream of revenue that 3 we were able to help fund some of -- of the 4 operations there. Can no longer do that 5 because we don't have the capacity to do it, 6 and our -- and the funds there have to go to 7 what's happening in front of them. I know that we have used grant 9 dollars to help support the expansion of our 10 drug courts, that perhaps those dollars could 11 have been used in a prevention setting or could 12 have been used for some other law enforcement 13 purpose, but because of the need for increased 14 capacity in drug courts, we -- we have 15 designated grant dollars for that as well. And -- and likewise, those judges, 17 their time that would normally have been spent 18 on a variety of different cases is focused 19 on -- on drug cases, and certainly a huge 20 percentage of which are opioids. I'm trying to go around the county I -- that's -- that's -- I think 24 that's where I'm at on that. Q. Well, you said -- let me take you

1 it's -- it's all hands on deck for that.

- Q. So --
- 3 A. Obvious- --
- 4 Go ahead.
- With law enforcement, we have
- 6 detectives who are, you know, responding to
- 7 overdose cases frequently. And those, as we've
- 8 discussed, are incredibly difficult to
- 9 investigate for a myriad of reasons, and their
- 10 time is, therefore, tied up in those cases
- 11 rather than, you know, folks who have had their
- 12 home burglarized or their car stolen.
- 13 And we also have a lot of our
- 14 resources being put into things like our Quick
- 16 but we know that Quick Response Teams are
- 17 effective, and so we put money toward them. So 17
- 18 the number of other things that don't get the
- 19 attention or the money that they typically
- 20 would or should get because we're busy trying
- 21 to save people's lives with -- with these
- 22 efforts.
- 23 I know that in the medical
- 24 examiner's office we have lost a stream of
- 25 revenue. Our medical examiner's office used to

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- 1 through some of these. This was -- has money 2 been taken away -- that was already allocated
- 3 to T21 taken away from it?
- A. I don't know that money was taken 5 away, but certainly focus.
- Q. How about money that was dedicated 7 to diabetes, whatever was going to be done
- 8 about diabetes, has anything been taken away 9 from that?
- 10 A. I -- again, I think where you've
- 11 got time invested, you know, from people,
- 12 that's money. So when you take people off of,
- 13 you know, particular initiatives and refocus
- 14 them on something else, that is a diversion
- 15 Response Teams that we never had to do before, 15 of -- probably not the right word -- that's a 16 shift in dollars.
  - O. Were specific people taken off 18 diabetes?
  - A. I don't know that for sure. I just
  - 20 know that that's not something that they are
  - 21 focused on. I shouldn't say that. That's 22 unfair.
  - 23 I know that what is coming out of 24 public health frequently, and investments of
  - 25 new dollars are going into are ways to mitigate

Page 204 Page 202 1 harm, harm -- harm reduction for the opioid 1 overdoses. 2 crisis. Q. Are there any -- is -- is the -- is 3 Summit County seeking damages in this case for 3 Q. Okay. What -- but this bullet 4 point talks funding being diverted to other 4 injuries suffered by the City of Akron? 5 public services --5 THE WITNESS: Thank you. A. Right. 6 A. Well, I mean, we don't -- we are 7 7 separate entities, certainly. Akron's in Q. -- so my question is, what was 8 their -- what was the specific funding or -- or 8 Summit County, and what happens in Akron does 9 resources, whether it was particular people, 9 affect Summit County. So an arrest that's made 10 that -- that was supposed to be -- you know, 10 in the City of Akron by Detective Leonard, that 11 was allocated out for diabetes and got diverted 11 becomes a Summit County case. It's a felony. 12 elsewhere? 12 So the City of Akron arrest goes 13 A. I don't -- I don't know how to 13 through Akron Municipal Court, comes to Summit 14 County Common Pleas court, goes through our 14 specifically answer what was allocated for 15 diabetes, but I know we spent \$10,000 on 15 prosecutor's office, goes through our Common 16 fentanyl strips. \$10,000 that could have been 16 Pleas court system, our drug court. Our ADM 17 spent on diabetes prevention. \$10,000 that 17 provides services. Our health department 18 could have been spent on T21. But because harm 18 provides services. 19 19 reduction is so critical in our community, So we're certainly separate 20 \$10,000 was spent on fentanyl strips. 20 entities, but what happens with nearly half of 21 our population impacts what goes on in Summit The increase in dollars that are 22 being spent on the needle exchange. Certainly 22 County. 23 those are dollars that weren't previously being 23 Q. Is Summit County seeking damages in 24 spent on needle exchange, but because the 24 this case for injuries suffered by the City of 25 demand is so high and the harm reduction 25 Akron? Page 203 Page 205 1 benefit of that is so great, that those dollars 1 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. Asked and 2 are not being spent on those other things. 2 answered. Q. What -- in a -- in a law 3 A. We're -- we're both independently 4 seeking our own damages, is the way I 4 enforcement category, you say that there are 5 people who are investigating over---5 understand the -- the case. 6 overdoses. Were those people who were Q. So if the -- if the City of Akron 7 previously assigned to do something else 7 police department suffers an injury, that's not 8 specifically, and if so, what? 8 part of the injury for which Summit County is A. Well, there are two detectives in 9 seeking damages, correct? 10 the Summit County Sheriff's Office who are 10 MS. KEARSE: Objection. 11 general division detectives, but they respond A. Again, it's tough because you get 11 12 arrested in the city of Akron, you're coming to 12 to any fatal overdose scene. So that means 13 they leave their desk and whatever rape, 13 the Summit County Jail. So I -- I know that 14 robbery or homicide they're working on and 14 they're -- that we're seeking -- we're two 15 their attention has to be focused on -- on this 15 separate plaintiffs, certainly, but the 16 overdose. 16 aggregate harm, to me, is what I always come 17 I know the City of Akron had two 17 back to. You know, I will leave to the 18 detectives who were working in, you know, 18 19 the -- the drug unit who were earmarked 19 lawyers to make the determination of -- of 20 specifically to investigate overdose deaths 20 where that line separates, but to me it's 21 because there were so many. 21 difficult for me to separate out what happens 22 That's to say nothing of all of the 22 in Akron from what happens in Summit County 23 other police officers throughout the county who 23 because they're the same thing. Everything in 24 would be proactively policing and are spending 24 Akron is in Summit County.

52 (Pages 202 - 205)

25

Q. Is the --

25 lots of time on calls for service regarding

MS. KEARSE: And, Counselor, just

2 again for the record, we've got 30(b)(6)

3 representatives who are going to go

- 4 specifically to the dollar figures for the City
- 5 of Akron and for the County of Summit, so I
- 6 think those questions are probably more
- 7 appropriate for the 30(b)(6) representatives
- 8 who will deal specifically with the costs and
- 9 dollars associated with the recovery.
- 10 Q. Are there any statistics maintained
- 12 in law enforcement activities in areas other
- 13 than drug enforcement that you attribute to the
- 14 opioid problem?
- 15 A. I'm sorry. Could you say that 16 again, please?
- 17 Q. Sure. Are there any statistics
- 18 maintained by Summit County concerning any
- 19 changes in law enforcement activity in areas
- 20 other than drug enforcement that you attribute
- 21 to the opioid problem?
- MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 23 A. I -- I feel like I'm -- I'm sorry.
- 24 I feel like I'm still missing it. Changes 25 in --

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1

- 1 Q. Well, you say that -- you say that 2 these people who were investigating drug
- 3 overdoses are not investigating something else.
- 4 Was there -- are there any statistics that are
- 5 maintained on what other crime is out there
- 6 and -- and whether it's being addressed at a
- 7 different level than it was before?
- 8 A. I see what you're saying.
- 9 Certainly the -- the sheriff's
- 10 department has its annual report, as does the
- 11 Akron Police Department.
- But again, it's hard to measure the
- 13 crime we don't catch. We're so focused on
- 14 opioids and the havoc that they have caused
- 15 that it would be difficult to graph the crime
- 16 that they're not catching because of the -- the
- 17 attention being paid to opioids.
- 18 Q. Do you know whether clearance rates
- 19 have changed?
- 20 A. I don't know that. I -- I don't --
- 21 I don't know that.
- Q. Now, you said that the medical
- 23 examiner's office is no longer able to earn
- 24 income for doing autopsies for other people,
- 25 for other counties. Was that, like, other

1 counties?

8

- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So this is just -- this is
- 4 just a money-making proposition for the County

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- 5 that you're not able to do anymore; is that 6 right?
- 7 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - A. Yeah, it wasn't just about making
- 9 money. We have highly skilled physicians who
- 10 have different certifications in our medical
- 11 or -- by Summit County concerning any changes 11 examiner's office. I believer Dr. Kohler is
  - 12 one of only -- it's either 150 or 200 in the
  - 13 country with certain qualifications. So often
  - 5 country with certain qualifications. So ofter
  - 14 her expertise was helpful in difficult cases.
  - 15 Q. Well, and the -- the Quick Response 16 Teams, were the- -- are these people who were
  - 17 diverted from other activities, and if so,
  - 18 what?
  - 19 A. Well, any time a police officer is
  - 20 responding to an overdose, they're not
  - 21 proactively policing. They're not being
  - 22 present in the community. They're taken out of
  - 23 the community for a specific purpose. So
  - 24 again, it's one of those it's hard to quantify
  - 25 because it's the stuff you don't catch.

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But any time a police officer is

- 2 dispatched as a part of a QRT, that's a police
- 3 officer who's not enforcing traffic laws.
- 4 That's a police officer who's not able to
- 5 respond to a domestic violence call. It's --
- 6 it's more officers who have to respond solo and
- 7 without, you know, a second officer present to
- / Without, you know, a second officer present to
- 8 those types of cases.
- 9 Q. And -- and again, am I correct that
- 10 you're not aware of any statistics, hard
- 11 statistics, about the activities that those
- 12 officers did not do because they were involved
- 13 in the Quick Response Teams?
- 14 A. No. It's hard to quantify what you
- 15 didn't do, I guess.
- 16 Q. All right. Then you say there that
- 17 you used grant dollars for drug court
- 18 expansion.

- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. So this was grant -- grant dollars
- 21 received from a third party?
- A. From the federal government.
- Q. From the federal government. Okay.
- 24 So this is not -- this is not Summit County tax
- 25 money you're talking about?

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A. No, but they're dollars that might

2 have otherwise been used for other

3 opportunities in the County.

Q. Were -- was that in the grant

5 documents? Is that money tailored for other --

6 excuse me -- targeted for other uses?

A. That was a DOJ grant that was -- I

8 don't -- it was not specifically for drug

9 courts, but it was fashioned by Summit County

Like, it was a pretty broad one.

10 employees in an effort to make our needs meet

11 the requirements of the grant, as I recall.

13 You could apply for many different reasons.

14 But as I recall, it was -- we tailored it to --

15 to expand drug court.

12

16 Q. Well, and you don't -- I take it

17 you don't know -- you don't know you would

18 have -- you would have received the grant for a

19 different use for those same funds?

20 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

A. I mean, I can't predict the federal

22 government. I don't think anybody can these

23 days. So, no, I couldn't say that we would

24 have gotten it or not.

25 Q. All right. I think we've covered

1 coordinate efforts and leverage funds, and

2 those are, you know -- personally those are

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3 hours that were not spent doing things that

4 could have enhanced our community. Those

5 are -- those are hours that were spent

6 specifically doing things that we would not

7 have been doing had this epidemic not taken

8 place in Summit County.

9 So public services is -- I guess I

10 sort of was just thinking police, but certainly

11 all of the public servants who work for the

12 County, in addition to public health and ADM,

13 have diverted our personal resources to this

14 issue.

15 Q. Have you tracked the -- the

16 hours --

19

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- that you spent on this?

A. I have not.

Q. Do you know if anybody else in the

21 County has done that?

A. I don't. But certainly I can

23 personally tell you I have spent what I am

24 confident are hundreds of hours at boards and

25 commission meetings on behalf of the County for

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1 the first -- first bullet --

2 A. Okay.

Q. -- pretty thoroughly.

Is there anything we have- -- we've

5 failed to cover on the first bullet?

6 I -- so maybe we can move to the

7 second one. "Costs for providing health care

8 and medical care for patients suffering from

9 opioid-related addiction or disease, including

10 overdoses and deaths."

1 A. I'm sorry. If I could go back to

12 the first one.

13 O. Sure

14 A. So because of the prevalence of the

15 opioid epidemic --

16 Q. Uh-huh.

17 A. -- lots of tasks -- task forces,

18 boards, commissions, things like that have

19 sprung up in an effort to educate and -- and

20 promote and -- and treat and combat the whole

21 thing, and a lot of person hours are being

22 devoted to those. So myself, our public safety

23 director, the executive, my staff, the public

24 safety staff have spent countless hours on

25 these boards and commissions trying to

1 this specific purpose.

2 Q. You were not hired specifically by

3 the County for that purpose, correct?

A. I was not hired by the County?

5 Q. To -- to deal with opioid issues.

6 Or were you?

7 A. That wasn't the only reason. I --

8 I think my knowledge of the criminal justice

9 system and my advocacy platform certainly lent

10 itself to the position that the executive hired

11 me at.

12 Q. Did the position that you -- that

13 you were hired for exist before you were hired

14 for it?

15 A. It did the way I was hired. I was

16 hired in as a deputy director of law, and that

17 was a position that existed.

18 January 1st of last year, the new

19 position of assistant chief of staff was

20 created.

Q. And then -- and you're also the

22 public spokes- --

A. Correct. Public information

24 officer.

25 O. Public information officer.

Page 216 Page 214 1 A. Yes. A. -- and so we used County resources 2 Q. And that's, I assume, a 2 to sort of leverage the transfer of a former DD 3 long-standing position? 3 home. All of the DD homes in Ohio have been A. It is, but it was -- it was held by 4 shut down. And so the Summit County DD board 5 our public safety division, and so it was 5 had this facility that was transferred to the 6 really more of a job that was kicked into gear 6 Land Bank. I can't recall the dollar amount 7 if there was an emergency or a public safety 7 that the Land Bank paid for it. And then we 8 issue. 8 invested general fund dollars to rehabilitate 9 Q. Has there been any policy or 9 it so that the folks who were living in this --10 practice within the County for people who are 10 this sober-living transitional housing 11 working on opioid-related issues to track their 11 environment would not be left to fend for 12 time working on those issues? 12 themselves. 13 A. No, not that I'm aware of. 13 So, you know, general fund is sort 14 Q. Are we now ready to move --14 of the fund of last resort. Those are dollars 15 A. Yes. 15 that we use only when we really feel we have 16 Q. -- to the second bullet? Okay. 16 to, and we certainly felt that that was 17 Yes. 17 important to provide that care for those --A. 18 "Costs for providing health care 18 those patients, for lack of a better term. 19 and medical care for patients suffering from 19 Q. Well, I'm focusing on the second 20 opioid-related addiction or disease, including 20 bullet point. 21 overdoses and deaths." 21 A. Yeah. 22 Who in the -- what entity within 22 It says, "The costs for providing 23 the County structure has incurred those costs? 23 health care and medical" --24 Or entities? 24 A. Right. 25 Well, the ADM Board has certainly 25 -- "care for patients suffering Page 217 1 incurred a huge cost and has expended their own 1 from opioid-related addiction or disease." 2 rainy day reserve funds to address it. 2 A. I consider treatment health care. 3 The public health department 3 Okay. 4 obviously has spent a lot of money doing that. A. And -- and treatment was being You know, our court system, when 5 provided at the transitional housing facility. 6 there are babies born addicted, there are Q. Okay. So who -- who -- you say the 7 caseworkers assigned by CSB, things like that, 7 ADM Board does some of this. 8 so there are costs associated with that. 8 So health care to me is -- is not 9 The public health department --10 just about, like, what's in the doctor's 10 Yes. 11 office. Is that fair to go down that road? 11 Q. -- does some of this. 12 Because the County has very much participated 12 Does -- is there any other entity 13 in transitional housing for folks recovering 13 within Summit County that incurs costs for 14 from opioid addiction. 14 providing health care and medical care for 15 Q. Are only people who have opioid 15 patients suffering --16 addiction eligible for transitional housing? 16 A. Right. 17 A. We specifically worked with 17 O. -- from opioid-related addiction or 18 opioid -- there's a specific transitional 18 disease? 19 housing program that the County worked with. 19 A. So I consider treatment health 20 It was the largest transitional housing program 20 care, and the County contracts with places like 21 that centered on men recovering from opioid 21 the Oriana House, the Interval Brotherhood

55 (Pages 214 - 217)

22 Home, the Community Health Center. And if you

23 are a person who comes into contact with our

24 court system and treatment is part of your

25 criminal justice process, we pay for that.

Q. Uh-huh.

24 auction --

25

22 addiction. It was in danger of closing because

23 their landlord had put the building up for

- 1 Q. Does that go through a particular 2 department?
- 3 A. So we have -- the county of Summit
- 4 has a direct contract with Oriana House, has --
- 5 has some direct --
- Q. Uh-huh.
- 7 A. -- contracts with some of these
- 8 care providers. And additionally, we also have
- 9 contracts with ADM, who then contract with
- 10 Summit Psychological, where health care is
- 11 provided in the jail and in our residential
- 12 facilities.
- 13 So any time you have a Summit
- 14 County inmate who's receiving health care in
- 15 the jail, certainly we are paying for that as
- 17 Q. But not all medical care that
- 18 people receive in jail is for opioid addiction?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Do you know what percentage of it
- 21 is?
- 22 A. I don't. I recall Captain -- or --
- 23 yeah, Captain Barker's testimony that there had
- 24 been an increase. I don't recall if there were
- 25 percentages in there.

- Page 219
- 1 Q. Are -- is -- are the contracts with
- 2 Oriana House and the others you listed limited
- 3 to opioid treatment?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 So do they also cover treatment for
- 6 people who are addicted to other substances? 7
  - Correct. They do.
- 8 O. Does that include alcohol?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Do you know what percentage of it
- 11 is for opioid addiction?
- 12 A. No, but I know there are some
- 13 specific programs, because opioid addiction is
- 14 very different than alcoholism and cocaine
- 15 addiction, for example.
- Q. Are the contracts for those
- 17 program -- are those programs subject to
- 18 separate contracts?
- A. Some of them are, and that would be
- 20 probably a better question for Brian.
- 21 I know that there are line items
- 22 that are affiliated with specific programs, but
- 23 I'm not -- I'm not in the weeds on that as much
- 24 as he is.
- 25 Q. Do you know what the programs are

- 1 that are specific to opioids?
  - A. I -- I -- there are -- there's a
  - 3 recovery coaching program that's specific to
  - 4 it, and I know that there are certain
  - 5 requirements for the recovery coaches to be
  - 6 certified and Medicaid reimbursed that
  - 7 essentially require that they're somebody who
  - 8 has lived through recovery, and that is focused
  - 9 on opioid treatment. I -- I feel like the
  - 10 recovery coaches are specific to opioids.
    - Q. Anything else?
  - 12 A. Again, I -- I'd tell you that Brian
  - 13 would be more able to answer that in- -- into
  - 14 those line items.

11

19

21

- Q. Going back just for a second, 15
- 16 something I forgot to ask you about, No. 1, the
- 17 first -- not No. 1 -- the first bullet point --
- 18
  - -- on page 15 of this exhibit --Q.
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
  - Q. -- the loss caused by the decrease
- 22 in funding because of diversion of funding.
- What -- what time period -- during 23
- 24 what time period were these losses incurred?
- 25 Well, I think we, again, started to
  - Page 221

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- 1 see the uptick in criminal cases that opioids
- 2 were the root of. Right? The possessions,
- 3 deception to obtain, we started to see that
- 4 uptick in -- you know, prosecutors handling
- 5 those cases, probation officers monitoring
- 6 those cases, treatment being sought because of
- 7 that -- in the late 2000s and early teens. 8 And I think it -- it really sort of
- 9 exploded '15 to '16 when we really were -- were
- 10 faced with, we have to do everything we can to
- 11 try to stop the bleeding. And that's -- that's
- 12 when we saw our medical examiner's office,
- 13 those types of things, really being impacted.
- 14 And -- and bottom line is -- I don't know that
- 15 that's the right word, but certainly their
- 16 budget changed dramatically in '15 and '16.
- 17 Q. The medical examiner office?
- 18 A. Yes, ma'am. Yeah.
- 19 Q. And the -- the diversion of
- 20 resources for law enforcement that you referred
- 21 to, is that -- did that occur in the same era?
- 22 A. Yes, I would say so. Again, saw
- 23 that uptick -- whether it was patrol, arrests,
- 24 or diversion detectives -- toward the end of
- 25 the 2000s, beginning of the teens. But really

- 1 that explosion of and really demand from the 2 public that law enforcement, you know, present
- 3 them with some response as well.
- Q. Oh, when did the Quick Response 4
- 5 Teams start?
- A. Those started, I believe, in '15.
- 7 I believe that there was discussion about them
- 8 perhaps at the end of '14, right when the
- 9 Opiate Task Force was forming, but I -- around 10 '15.
- 11 Q. And the task forces were formed in
- 12 the 2014-2015 --13 A. So the Opiate Task Force that sort
- 14 of everyone talks about, the one that ADM sort 15 of hosts, that started in 2014.
- Q. And the diversion of resources that 17 you think could have been spent on T21 and
- 18 diabetes, was that at the same time?
- A. The same time and growing. I know
- 20 that the fentanyl strips were just purchased
- 21 for the first time last year, so certainly not
- 22 a cost we had incurred prior to that.
- Q. Okay. Going back to the second 24 bullet point, then.
- 25 A. Okay.

- Page 223
- 1 Q. The costs for providing health care 2 and medical care for patients suffering from
- 3 opioid-related addiction or disease.
- 4 A. Uh-huh.
- O. For whom does the ADM Board -- oh,
- 6 first of all, starting with -- starting -- let
- 7 me start again.
- 8 A. Okay.
- The ADM Board, -- has the funding
- 10 for the ADM Board increased?
- A. No, it has not. Well, so they're
- 12 levy-funded mostly, so local dollars mostly
- 13 fund the ADM Board. Their last levy was six
- 14 years ago. They are in a levy year this year.
- 15 So in 2013 they did not seek a renewal at that
- 16 time, so they've had a flat budget.
- 17 I know that their funding from the
- 18 State has increased over the last eight years.
- 19 But their local dollars, I mean, you know, with
- 20 the rise and fall of -- of tax receipts. But
- 21 pretty flat.
- 22 Why was no renewal sought in 2013?
- 23 A. No, it was a renewal. It was not
- 24 an increase.
- 25 Oh, it was not an increase.

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. Oh. So they didn't think an
- 3 increase was needed in 2013?
- 4 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - A. I -- I did not have a discussion
- 6 with the director about that. I think at that
- 7 time in 2013 we knew we had a problem. We knew
- 8 families were incurring crisis. I don't think
- 9 we knew yet that we had an epidemic.
- 10 Q. Now, you say the funding for the
- 11 State has decreased for the ADM Board.
- 12 Yes. A.

5

14

- 13 O. What's the reason for that?
  - A. Priorities. The administration and
- 15 the legislature, throughout the last eight
- 16 years, have had different priorities, and a lot
- 17 of the -- what was previously in place is what
- 18 I would call permanent funding, so funding
- 19 streams, a lot of those dollars have been
- 20 turned into grants, so non-permanent.
- 21 The response to requests for more
- 22 funding has commonly been, "Seek a grant.
- 23 Here's a grant that might fill that gap for
- 24 you."

25

14

So it's a priority. It was not the

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- 1 number one priority of the administration and
- 2 the legislature, and perhaps they think that
- 3 investing in other ways is more beneficial.
- Q. So the -- when you say the 4
- 5 administration, you're talking about the
- 6 governor and --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 O. -- the State administration?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And -- but they have elected to
- 11 decrease the funding that went to the ADM
- 12 Board. When did that --
- MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 13
  - Q. When did that decrease occur?
- 15 A. I think it's been decreasing.
- 16 There's a biennium budget every two years, and
- 17 I don't -- I think they were flat budgeted this
- 18 cycle, but prior to that had faced at least a
- 19 small decrease every cycle.
- 20 MS. KEARSE: And I'm also going to
- 21 say, this line of questioning, there's a 30(b)
- 22 on budgets as well, and Brian Nelson will be
- 23 testifying about that as well. So I think
- 24 budget issues, there's a specific 30(b) witness
- 25 for budget and costs associated with that, too.

- 1 Q. For whom has the ADM Board paid --
- 2 MS. KEARSE: And -- and I -- I
- 3 don't mean -- by budget, I'm just going to say,
- 4 I mean, to the extent there's anything
- 5 conflicting, I think you'll have the
- 6 opportunity to talk to Brian Nelson about the
- 7 specific budgets. I do not want Ms. Johnson
- 8 having to be the 30(b) representative on budget
- 9 issues.
- MS. WINNER: I understand if it has
- 11 a -- if it's a number with a dollar sign in
- 12 front of it, that's for one of your other
- 13 witnesses.
- MS. KEARSE: Well, and the whole
- 15 budget line. What's on the budget decreases,
- 16 increases. All --
- 17 MS. WINNER: Okay.
- 18 MS. KEARSE: Anything budget on
- 19 that is Brian Nelson.
- 20 Q. The ADM Board, who -- whose health
- 21 care and medical care costs does the ADM Board
- 22 pay?
- A. Well, they provide treatment to
- 24 individuals who seek it either on their own or
- 25 at the direction of a judge.

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- 1 Q. And is that independent of the
- 2 treatment that's provided through contracts
- 3 with the likes of Oriana House?
- 4 A. It can be. The -- ADM is a funder,
- 5 so they fund the Oriana House. They fund IBH,
- 6 the Interval Brotherhood Home. They fund the
- 7 Community Health Center. So they're not a
- 8 direct treatment provider, so, you know, the
- 9 dollars they spend aren't on, you know,
- 10 person-to-person care. They're spent --
- 11 Q. For programs.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Who determines the eligibility for
- 14 those programs?
- 15 A. The caseworkers, primarily.
- 16 Probation officers. At times judges. You
- 17 know, if you go to a detox center, you'll be
- 18 interviewed. If you get arrested, you'll be
- 19 interviewed. And the folks who work in our
- 20 probation department and with our drug courts
- 21 have specialized training to make some of those
- 22 referrals and those decisions.
- Q. Are there any financial-need tests
- 24 for any of the programs?
  - A. I don't know what you mean by that.

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- 1 Q. You have to be below the poverty 2 line or something like that?
- 3 A. Oh, I don't know that we do any
- 4 TANF funding for that. I -- I know that there
- 5 is a real intentional and concentrated effort
- 6 to make sure folks are enrolled in Medicaid, if
- 7 they aren't already, so that reimbursement can
- 8 be sought and so that they are able to get the
- 9 best care they can.
- But I don't -- I don't know that
- 11 there's any -- we don't turn people away if
- 12 they can't pay. And certainly if they have
- 13 private pay, those are accepted by a lot of our
- 14 treatment providers as well.
- 15 Q. So when you say costs, are there
- 16 costs for providing health care and medical
- 17 care for patients suffering from opioid-related
- 18 addiction or disease, as in this second bullet
- 19 point, that are not reimbursed by Medicaid or 20 other health insurance?
- A. Oh, yeah. A lot of people aren't
- 22 insured still. I mean, a whole lot. You know,
- 23 there are also lots of children who, if they
- 24 are -- if they're -- we call it Rule 6. If
- 25 they are removed from the home, they certainly
  - Page 229
- 1 have to have a health care screening, and not
- 2 all of those children are enrolled in Medicaid
- 3 and -- and/or have insurance, and so a lot
- 4 of -- a lot of times -- there are plenty of
- 5 folks who don't have insurance and are not
- 6 being reimbursed for.
- 7 And certainly we've got some
- 8 facilities like IBH, which exceeds the Medicaid
- 9 bed limit for reimbursement, and so we can't
- 10 get any reimbursement at IBH, which is our
- 11 largest inpatient facility.
- MS. KEARSE: And, Counsel, I'll
- 13 just -- I mean I know you're asking questions,
- 14 but even Topic 11, that Brian Nelson will -- it
- 15 talks about the source of funds, so I think
- 16 Ms. Johnson could talk, certainly, about the --
- 17 the harm that's been done to the community
- 18 there, but when you're talking about the
- 19 sources of funds and the dollar signs, I think
- 20 it is more appropriate -- it is more
- 21 appropriate for Mr. Nelson, who has been
- 22 designated as a 30(b) for damages and budgets
- 23 and line items that -- that go to the specific
- 24 costs of things as well.
  - Q. You said that the public health

25

1 department also incurs some of the costs that

- 2 are covered -- that are addressed in this
- 3 second bullet point. For whom does the public
- 4 health department pay for health care and
- 5 medical care?
- 6 A. Well, they -- they are direct
- 7 treatment providers, so they do some direct --
- 8 I call it person to person. They are care
- 9 providers, some of their programming.
- 10 Q. And do they have any programs that 11 are limited to opioid addiction?
- 12 A. Well, their needle exchange
- 13 certainly is and their fentanyl strip program,
- 14 I would say, are opioid -- you know, those are
- 15 certainly opioid-driven programs.
- 16 Q. Well, needle exchange can -- can
- 17 apply to addicts using other drugs also, can't
- 18 it?
- 19 A. Well, sure, but I've not heard of
- 20 people using intravenous cocaine. I mean,
- 21 opioids seem to be the ones that go with
- 22 needles.
- Q. Any other programs that are
- 24 specific to opioids in the public health
- 25 department?

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- A. Public health department
- 2 participates in the Centering program. That's
- 3 at Summa Health System's Barberton campus.
- 4 They provide some wraparound services there,
- 5 and that is an opioid-specific treatment
- 6 program for pregnant moms and moms of babies
- 7 that -- that the public health department
- 8 participates in.
- 9 Q. When you say "participates," what 10 do you mean by that?
- 11 A. They offer person-to-person and
- 12 direct-group counseling services.
- Q. Is there anybody else that the
- 14 public health department pays health care or
- 15 medical care for involving opioid-related
- 16 addiction or disease?
- 17 A. I can't -- I can't think of any
- 18 others right now.
- 19 Q. All right. Let's go to the next
- 20 item, which is "Costs of training emergency
- 21 and/or first responders in the proper treatment
- 22 of drug overdoses."
- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. What kind of -- what -- can you
- 25 describe what kind of training that refers to?

at 1 A. When our residents first -- I

- 2 shouldn't say first. When it started to become
- 3 more prevalent that folks were overdosing in
- 4 homes outside of hospitals, there was not a lot
- 5 of attention paid to the scene. Medical
- 6 emergency first and foremost, and -- and that's
- 7 the way it was treated.
- 8 And then there came a shift of,
- 9 this needs to be treated like a crime scene,
- 10 because it is. If someone overdosed then, you
- 11 know, died with the needle in their arm, the
- 12 response was typically two-part. It was from
- 13 EMT to make sure all efforts to resuscitate had
- 14 been completed, and then the scene was then
- 15 treated like a crime scene, which had not been
- 16 previously done before. And as we talked about
- 17 before, detectives were assigned to respond to
- 10. 41 and a serial large and a 11. and 41. at a serial and
- 18 those as quickly as possible so that evidence 19 could be preserved and the scene could be
- 20 evaluated.
- 21 So there was definitely training
- 22 that went into some of our officers
- 23 understanding what to look for, what to be
- 24 careful of, because, quite frankly, as this
- 25 epidemic has evolved, the danger to our
  - Page 233

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1 officers has increased.

- Q. And the danger to the officers is
- 3 primarily from exposure to fentanyl?
- 4 A. And carfentanil and needles. You
- 5 know, needle sticks are still troubling, to say 6 the least, and require medical treatment and
- 7 attention.
- 8 Q. Well, the training that -- that's
- 9 described in Bullet Point 3, I mean, who
- 10 receives this training? Police officers?
- 1 A. Police officers, the QRT response
- 12 teams, the recovery coaches, any folks who
- 13 might respond to an immediate scene of
- 14 overdose.
- 15 Q. And how many people have received
- 16 that kind of training?
- 17 A. Gosh, I don't know the answer to 18 that.
- 19 Q. What kind of training -- I mean,
- 20 what scope of training? Are we talking about
- 21 somebody having to go off to a course for a
- 22 month? Are we talking about a course of a
- 23 couple hours in an afternoon? Can you sort of
- 24 give us a sense of --
  - A. I know that some of --

Page 234 Page 236 1 Q. -- the extent of the training 1 training them on how to use naloxone. 2 that's required here? 2 O. Yeah, let's come back to the A. I know some of our law enforcement 3 naloxone in a minute. 4 officers have received more training than, you A. Yeah. 4 5 Q. But -- but my question is, I mean, 5 know, an hour update. I know that there are 6 some law enforcement officers who not only have 6 I would -- I -- maybe I'm wrong, but I would 7 received it but now give it. They -- they 7 assume that an EMT, among the basic skill set 8 teach other officers how to do it. 8 for an EMT would be dealing with an overdose --As far as our recovery coaches, 9 A. Sure. 10 there's a certification process, because 10 Q. -- handling an overdose situation, 11 recovery coaches are dispatched with the QRT 11 and that's nothing particularly special now, is 12 teams, and so they certainly have been trained 12 it? 13 on it. And it's -- it's not an insignificant 13 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 14 training process and certification process for 14 A. I don't know that I disagree with 15 those folks. But the number? Not enough. We 15 that. I think the -- the cumulative nature of 16 some of our EMTs responding has required some 16 could use more recovery coaches. 17 Q. Well, what's the average amount of 17 additional attention paid to their -- to their 18 time that a police officer has -- the average 18 mental wellness, because when you've got EMTs 19 amount of time that a police officer has in 19 who respond to the same house five times, it 20 training for this? 20 can certainly impact and create some care 21 A. I couldn't speak to the average 21 fatigue. So I -- I know that there has been 22 number. 22 some intentionality about addressing that with 23 Q. Are all police officers given this 23 first responders as well. 24 24 training? MS. WINNER: Why don't we take a 25 A. All police officers are trained in 25 break. Page 237 1 evidence collection and investigative tools, 1 THE WITNESS: Sure. 2 things like that. Specifically to overdose and 2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record 3 more specifically overdose death, I -- I don't 3 at 2:17. 4 want to guess. 4 (A recess was taken.) Q. Have we pretty much covered the 5 5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record. 6 third bullet point now? 6 This is the beginning of Disk No. 3. The time 7 A. We talked only about police 7 is 2:42. 8 officers. We didn't really talk about the 8 BY MS. WINNER: 9 Q. Okay. We're back on the record. 9 EMTs. 10 Q. Okay. 10 Do you still have Exhibit 7 in 11 A. So --11 front of you? 12 So is there also training for 12 A. Yes. 13 the --Q. And we've been talking about some 14 14 of the bullet points under Response 18? A. Sure. 15 Q. I mean, I assume EMTs have to be 15 A. Yes. 16 trained to deal with overdoses no matter what, 16 Q. And I'm not going to probably skip 17 right? 17 over some of them, because I -- I think most of 18 Sure, but --18 them are ones that your counsel would direct 19 19 all of my questions to one of your colleagues. MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 20 20 A. -- they also -- they also need to A. Okay. 21 be trained on how to interact with law 21 Q. But there are a few that I'd like 22 enforcement in that capacity as well, because 22 to ask you a few more questions about. 23 it's an emergency situation, but it's also a 23 Sure. A. 24 crime scene. And the other part that we did 24 Q. If you would look at the last 25 bullet point on page 15, first of all, "Costs 25 not talk about with police officers was

Page 240 Page 238 1 for providing mental health services, 1 MS. WINNER: Oops. Okay. 2 2 treatment, counseling, rehabilitation service, MR. JOHNSON: Oh, now they did. 3 3 and social service to victim of the opioid MS. WINNER: Now we're back on. 4 epidemic and their families." 4 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Now, I think a lot of these 5 A. So this was done in response to a 6 categories overlap. 6 need for not only more treatment beds, but also 7 A. Yeah. 7 a variety of treatment options for folks. It 8 Q. So I think a lot of this one we've 8 really -- it's a large tract of land that the 9 already talked about. 9 County owns and had for sale that we certainly Is there anything that fits in this 10 didn't sell to anyone else because we felt it 10 11 category that you haven't already described for 11 was so imperative to create this availability 12 me? 12 of space for -- for these treatment providers. 13 A. I don't know that we've talked a 13 O. Where is this land located? 14 lot about Children's Services and the costs 14 A. It's located in Lakemore, which is 15 associated with the increased treatment and 15 interesting because it's a landlocked community 16 placement. 16 inside of Springfield, which is just east of 17 Q. We have a whole separate bullet 17 Akron. 18 point --18 Q. You said you had it for sale. How 19 19 long had it been for sale? A. Oh, that's right. Sure. Okay. 20 Q. -- for that one later. So let's --20 A. I don't know when the last -- when 21 MS. KEARSE: And I'm -- I'm sorry. 21 it -- the last tenants. So it -- I don't know 22 Which bullet point are you on? 22 how long it had been for sale. 23 MS. WINNER: We're on the last one 23 Q. The -- are these, Hope United and 24 on page 15. 24 Dan Gregory's group, whatever its name is, 25 25 limited to opioid addiction treatment? MS. KEARSE: Okay. All right. Page 239 Page 241 A. So directly from the County, A. I don't think that they are limited 1 2 because of the increased demand for inpatient 2 to, but they came to us because of. Both of 3 treatment, as well as other forms of services 3 their families are personally affected by the 4 and counseling centers, the County donated 4 opioid epidemic. 5 land. There are two separate 501(c)(3) groups Hope United was founded by Travis 6 in Summit County who were working together and 6 and Shelly Bornstein, and they lost their son 7 are working together. One called Hope United, 7 to an overdose. And he was a college athlete 8 which is seeking to create a community center 8 who became addicted to opioids, and when no --9 specifically for folks recovering from opioid 9 he could no longer get those, he turned to 10 addiction. 10 heroin. And he overdosed, and his body was The other is called -- I've lost 11 dumped in a field. And so they very quickly 12 it. Dan Gregory's group. It will come to me 12 mobilized their community to support this 13 as I talk about it. They are looking to build 13 effort of having a place of hope for people to 14 an inpatient facility. And they approached the 14 go to. 15 County multiple times looking for land or a 15 And Dan's organization, he also has

16 building that would make sense. 17 Because we could not find the right 18 fit for something they could purchase, we

19 donated over 20 acres of land to these two

20 501(c)(3)s in an effort to co-locate them and

21 provide, really, a campus for treatment. This

22 was done essentially because we saw the need

23 and --

24 MR. JOHNSON: They didn't turn the

25 telephone back on.

61 (Pages 238 - 241)

16 a family member who has been directly impacted

O. And what is the source of your

20 information about how his addiction started?

Q. With him? He told you that?

A. I talked with Dan, and I talked

24 with Shelly and Travis Bornstein. They lost

17 by opioid addiction that started with

A. I talked with him.

18 medication and now has turned to heroin.

21

22

23

25 their son.

- Q. Okay. But my point is, did you --
- 2 do you have any information, other than what
- 3 these family members told you about that?
- A. No. He's dead. I mean, this is
- 5 what happened to him.
- Q. Well, but, I -- again, you're --
- 7 you're a former prosecutor. You know the
- 8 difference between hearsay and direct -- direct
- 9 evidence.
- Do you have any personal knowledge 10 11 on that point or is it you just know what they 12 told you?
- 13 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 14 A. I believe that the parents knew
- 15 what their child was doing when he was taking
- 16 prescription medication prescribed to him by
- 17 his physician after an injury. And they know
- 18 that he then started seeking heroin. And they
- 19 know this because he died with a needle in his
- 20 arm.
- 21 Q. And that's what they've told you;
- 22 is that correct?
- A. That's also what a police report
- 24 indicates in the way that he died.
- 25 Q. And does the police report include

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- 1 police departments in Summit County now have a
- 2 drop-off box, and --
  - Q. Is that what a dump site is --
- 4 Yeah.
- 5 Q. -- a drop-off box?
- 6 A. Yes, yes. And there have been
- 7 several initiatives, drug take-back days, where
- 8 there's specified locations for folks to turn
- 9 in unused medications.
- 10 O. Who runs that?
- 11 A. It depends. Obviously, all of the
- 12 different police departments monitor their own
- 13 drop boxes. The DEA certainly has, I think,
- 14 either one or two specified days per year, but
- 15 local law enforcement groups have done their
- 16 own, and it has gone to a point where we've had
- 17 local high school groups organize some of these
- 18 sort of take-back or turn-in days.
- 19 Q. All right. Well, what is --
- 20 what -- just focusing in on the county again.
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. What -- what has Summit County done
- 23 in this category?
- A. Well, the health department
- 25 participates in those, as well as ADM. Those

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- 1 any independent information about the source of
- 2 his opioid use?
- A. I don't recall exactly what the
- 4 police report says.
- Q. Okay. On this, have we now covered
- 6 either in our conversation just now or in our
- 7 conversation before the break, everything
- 8 that -- that's covered within -- of the last
- 9 bullet point on page 15?
- A. That's the best of my ability at 10
- 11 this point, yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. Why don't we skip over the
- 13 next bullet point and talk about the second
- 14 bullet point on page 16.
- 15 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Which is costs associated with
- 17 various public safety and health initiatives
- 18 related to the opioid epidemic. And again, I
- 19 don't want us to be repeating ourselves.
- 20 Sure. A.
- 21 Q. So is there anything in that
- 22 category beyond what we've already talked about 22 that's what I can come up with at this point.
- 23 here today?
- A. The number of dump sites for
- 25 medication has increased. I know that most

- Page 245 1 are -- a lot of those initiatives are driven
- 2 out of the Opiate Task Force meetings. So the
- 3 health department and -- and the ADM are
- 4 involved in all of those efforts for those
- 5 initiatives.
- 6 Q. Well, other than the -- is there
- 7 anything else other than the dump sites and the
- 8 drug take-back days that fits in this category,
- 9 beyond the things that we've already talked
- 10 about. I realize some of them would probably
- 11 fit --

17

- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. -- into this category also.
- A. Did we talk about the fentanyl 14
- 15 strips and needles with this?
- 16 Q. You have.
  - A. Okav.
- 18 Q. Anything else?
- 19 The -- Dr. Smith and Dr. Kohler
- 20 presenting at continuing medical education
- 21 programs. As far as initiatives, that's --
- 23 Q. Now, the -- the dump sites for
- 24 medication and the drug take-back days, those

25 are not limited to opioids, are they?

Page 248 Page 246 1 A. No. 1 talk about to incur -- to expand the 2 Q. All right. The costs associated 2 eligibility, that isn't limited to people with 3 with the increased burden on Plaintiff's drug 3 opioid problems, is it? 4 courts, are there specific initiatives A. No. But I really think it was the 5 associated with opioids that have been 5 opioid epidemic that awakened this sort of 6 undertaken by the drug courts? 6 sensibility about rather than criminalizing A. They've had to increase capacity. 7 this behavior, looking at the root of why this 8 As far as initiatives, I guess I don't know 8 person committed theft or why this person 9 exactly how to frame that other than to say 9 committed forgery of this check, rather than 10 there's been an increase in who becomes 10 just, you know, the punishment for writing a 11 eligible for drug court, or I -- we call it 11 bad check on, you know, either a closed account 12 "Hope Court" in municipal court. It's "Turning 12 or someone else's account. And -- and seeing 13 Point" in common pleas court. But I guess it's 13 that the reason they did it was they were 14 commonly referred to as "drug court." 14 trying to get money to buy opioids. But it used to be, 10 and 15 years 15 15 So I think that that created an 16 ago even, the only courses that went to drug 16 entire shift in -- in sort of the ideology in 17 court was drug cases, possession cases, and 17 our community that -- looking at what we call 18 there's been a shift in policy and in thought 18 crime as part of addiction. Q. Well, let me ask you this. If --19 that it should be expanded to cover theft cases 19 20 or other things that were committed as a result 20 if opioids were to disappear tomorrow so that 21 of addiction and drug-seeking behavior. 21 all you had --22 22 So the expansion of and sort of the A. Please. 23 change in philosophy has certainly required 23 Q. Yeah. I think we all agree with 24 additional probation officers, additional 24 that. At least illegal opioids. 25 caseworkers. Common pleas court now has two MS. KEARSE: Objection. Page 247 Page 249 1 judges. It expanded from one of our three 1 Q. And if the -- if opioids were to --2 municipal courts to there's now a second drug 2 the opioid problem was to disappear tomorrow 3 court. And Barberton Municipal Court and the 3 and all you had left were cocaine addicts, meth 4 Stow Municipal Court has an agreement with 4 addicts, people addicted to other substances, I 5 Akron so that some of their defendants can use 5 assume you would still -- you know, Summit 6 County would still want to have a drug court 6 the services in Akron. 7 for those people? Q. Okay. But I want to focus again on 8 Summit, what Summit County --8 A. Yes. We had a drug court before A. Right, and we --9 the opioid epidemic. 10 Q. -- has incurred here. 10 Q. And this policy change is something 11 you would probably still keep in place? A. -- we -- so the court system is 100 12 percent Summit County, the common pleas court 12 A. I would certainly hope so. 13 system. Q. Okay. Costs associated with 13

Q. -- has incurred here.

A. -- we -- so the court system is 100

percent Summit County, the common pleas court system.

Q. Okay. I see.

A. Yes. So that's general fund money

for the most part. Some of the grant funds

that we talked about previously helped support

drug court, but that -- that is a Summit County

cost.

Q. To the extent Summit County --

Q. To the extent Summit County -21 okay, Summit County versus another
22 jurisdiction. But some of that money may be
23 paid with grant funds?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. Now, this policy change that you

10 Q. And this policy change is something
11 you would probably still keep in place?
12 A. I would certainly hope so.
13 Q. Okay. Costs associated with
14 cleanup of public parks, spaces, and facilities
15 of needles and other debris and waste of opioid
16 addiction. Is this something that's actually
17 tracked somehow in the county?
18 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
19 A. I would suggest that that be
20 referred to Mr. Nelson, that the -- Summit
21 County Metroparks is a separate entity. They
22 are funded by a levy. So I don't know what
23 their tracking on that part is.
24 Q. Do you know anything about this
25 cost category?

63 (Pages 246 - 249)

Page 250 Page 252 1 A. I do not. Q. And that is generally considered at 2 O. Loss of tax revenue due to 2 the level of full employment, correct? 3 decreased efficiency and size of the working A. I don't know -- I don't know how to 4 population in Plaintiff's communities, and due 4 respond to that. 5 to other impacts on property values and other Q. Do you -- but 4 percent is a pretty 6 tax generators for Plaintiff. 6 low unemployment rate, is it not? 7 7 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. Has there been any kind of study 8 8 done to evaluate this category of loss? A. I think it depends on if you're one A. Not by Summit County. We do have a 9 of the people who's employed and if you're one 10 division of workforce development, and we also 10 of the people who is looking for a workforce. 11 have an economic and community development Q. Well, let me ask you this way. If 12 division within the executive's office. And 12 you are somebody who is looking for a 13 part of what we do in that division is make 13 workforce, you typically will have a much more 14 house calls, essentially, to the businesses in 14 difficult time filling positions at 4 percent 15 Summit County. 15 unemployment rate than, say, at 7 or 8 or 10 And the number one complaint or the 16 percent unemployment rate, correct? 17 number one need of employers in Summit County A. I think it depends on the industry. 17 18 is workforce. And by and large these are 18 And the unemployment rate doesn't look at our 19 manufacturing jobs. And going one step 19 underemployment, where we've got folks who 20 further, the number one issue is having folks 20 perhaps were nurses or other professionals that 21 who can pass a drug test, and there's a lot of 21 are regulated by the State, who now, with a 22 concern from our business community that they 22 felony conviction, can no longer practice in 23 can't expand because the workforce is not 23 the field they were previously, you know, 24 healthy enough to do so. 24 paying income tax and owned a home and now work 25 And, again, as I previously said, 25 at minimum wage jobs or a lower paying wage job Page 251 Page 253 1 there are a lot of industries that are 1 than previously. 2 regulated, either by statute or ordinance, that 2 Q. How many people are in that 3 disallow felons. And with this epidemic 3 category? 4 creating a new class of not only sick people, 4 A. I don't know. 5 it created a new class of sometimes 5 Q. Are you aware of any specific 6 unemployable people in certain fields because 6 business investments that businesses have 7 of their felony classification. 7 considered making in Summit County but have not And again, it's also an issue of 8 made as a result of the opioid crisis? 9 how can we measure what we didn't know? When A. No. As I said, trying to capture 10 you couldn't look at a newspaper in 2016 10 what you never knew was happening is -- is 11 without seeing a headline about death and 11 incredibly difficult, at least for us.

12 opioid affliction in the community, it's hard

13 to say what we missed when it comes to economic

14 development or tax generators, because, A, we

15 were busy trying to address the issue, and, B,

16 if you were a site selector at that time, I

17 can't imagine that Summit County would have

18 been a desirable location if you were looking

10 been a desirable focation if you were fooking

19 to relocate a new manufacturing plant or a

20 headquarters of some type of economic

21 development industry.

Q. What's the unemployment rate in

23 Summit County right now?

24 A. I think it's right around 4

25 percent.

12 Q. And Northeast Ohio has had -- been

13 struggling with attracting investment for a

14 number of years now, hasn't it?
15 A. I -- I don't really want to speak

16 for Northeast Ohio. I feel like Summit County

17 has weathered the financial crisis in some

18 better ways than most, but it's because we've

19 been -- we operate with a thousand less

20 employees than we did 10 years ago, so I

21 couldn't say what Northeast Ohio has -- has or

22 has not you attracted.

Q. Well, as the -- was the -- did the

24 financial crisis hit Summit County hard?

25 A. Yes, it did.

Page 254 Page 256 1 Q. Is there -- are there any specific 1 the page, talks about cost associated with 2 tax revenue streams that you can identify for 2 impact of opioid epidemic on Plaintiff's 3 which you believe there is a quantifiable 3 vehicle fleets. 4 impact? 4 What does that relate to? MS. KEARSE: Object to form. A. I would have to defer to -- to 5 MS. WINNER: Oh, you meant -- you 6 Mr. Nelson that, on the tax revenue streams. I 6 7 mean, we're a sales-tax-based fund, our -- I 7 were objecting to my tone of voice. 8 would defer to Mr. Nelson that one. 8 MS. KEARSE: Well, I didn't want to 9 say it that way, but, yeah. O. So is the answer you don't know? 10 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. MS. WINNER: Yeah, okay. Fair 10 A. As I sit here today, I -- I can't 11 enough. 11 12 answer that question. 12 MS. KEARSE: I guess you were 13 Q. When it talk -- when you -- when 13 responding to how I said "object to form." 14 this response talks about tax revenue, is it 14 (Laughter.) 15 talking about sales tax revenue? 15 MS. KEARSE: We got to have some A. I think it includes sales tax --16 fun at this. 17 sales tax revenue, but also income tax revenue. 17 A. So there are multiple fleets of 18 When you're not working, you're not paying 18 vehicles in the County. Surprising number of 19 vehicles. And as I sit here, the -- the thing 19 income tax, and -- and that can impact the 20 County as well. While we don't collect income 20 that really stands out to me is that, you know, 21 tax, what affects Akron affects Summit County, 21 buying new vehicles for our sheriff's 22 department, for the investigators and the 22 and when their numbers are down, we have to 23 find ways to help support our 31 communities. 23 prosecutor's office, all the way down to the 24 surveyors for the fiscal office, certainly when And so when, quote-unquote, 25 business is good for the 31 communities, 25 the bottom line is impacted, the timeliness of, Page 255 1 business is also good for Summit County. And 1 you know, replacement -- I certainly hope it's 2 not repair -- but replacement of these vehicles 2 likewise, when it's not, the strain and the 3 leveraging of dollars has to become much more 3 isn't a priority when we're using our funds 4 elsewhere. Beyond that, I can't speak to that 4 creative. 5 one. Q. So am I correct that Akron charges 6 income tax, but Summit County does not? 6 Q. Okay. Then go on, the next one is A. Well, that -- that's our primary --7 costs for Plaintiff to properly and adequately 8 the way our general fund is -- is set up is 8 abate the nuisance created by the opioid 9 that we operate -- all counties in Ohio operate 9 epidemic. 10 on sales tax revenue. 10 And, again, excluding everything Q. Are there any other tax revenues 11 you've already described, is there anything

12 that the County receives that are affected, you 13 believe, by the opioid crisis?

A. Sitting here today, I don't -- I 14 15 don't know that I can come up with any. MS. KEARSE: And for the record, I 17 think she already deferred to Mr. Nelson as 18 well, so if there's anything she's missing,

19 Mr. Nelson can fill that in for you.

20 MS. WINNER: I'm sure Mr. Nelson 21 will be a fount of information.

22 MS. KEARSE: Save some time.

23 MS. WINNER: We will.

24 Q. Okay. Let me then ask -- go down a 25 couple more, toward the next to last bullet on 12 else that falls into this category? A. This one's hard for me, because 13 14 there's so much that I cannot, as -- as an

15 attorney and as whatever my hats are, I'm not 16 an economist. These kids who have gone into 17 our Children's Services system, the babies born 18 addicted, the people who this -- this entire population who is now living with addiction. 20 Luckily, we've gotten better at 21 harm reduction, but what that means is that now

22 we have this population of people who are 23 living with addiction who are going to our 24 community health center for methadone every 25 single day. The costs for that, to me, are

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Page 258 Page 260 1 endless. 1 alarming is that that isn't the case with So, I mean, we've -- as I said, 2 opioids, because it's a familial addiction. 3 there's always a dead horse that needs to be 3 Mom is addicted. Brother is addicted. 4 beaten somewhere, but we have gone over so many 4 Grandparent is addicted. And so the ability to 5 of these things, but we haven't talked about 5 place a child with a family member has 6 the future. These costs we've been talking 6 decreased. And when the child has to be placed 7 about in the past tense. These are costs that 7 with a non-family member, the costs of that 8 are being incurred today. They are costs --8 placement are higher than they are with a 9 these same costs are going to be incurred 9 family member. 10 tomorrow. There are still kids coming into CSB 10 Q. Well, I'm -- one thing that just 11 at higher rates than before. 11 struck me as you were talking just now is you 12 And so it's like looking at these 12 talked about familial addiction. When a --13 numbers from the past and putting them out into 13 when you see, you know, mom, dad, grandma, all 14 when? I don't know, because the generational 14 addicted to opioids, did all of them start with 15 addiction that's been created by this epidemic 15 prescription opioids from a doctor, or does it 16 is something that we've never seen before, and 16 start with one particular family member and 17 so it's hard for me, as an attorney and not an 17 then it spreads to others? 18 economist, to project what we might need for 18 A. My experience has shown me that 19 these kids and for these families. 19 when one person comes home with a bottle full 20 Q. Is that your full answer? 20 of 60 or 90 pills and that person either uses 21 A. That is. 21 or doesn't use them all, the readily available 22 Q. All right. Then the last bullet is 22 supply in the home is what leads to this 23 costs for child services and foster care for 23 familial addiction. Everybody has access to 24 opioid-dependent babies and foster children. 24 this oversupply, and it's right there in front 25 And you talked a little bit about 25 of them because there are so many pills. Page 259 Page 261 1 this earlier. I guess my first question is, to Q. If somebody were able to make -- to 2 what extent are the -- the -- are child 2 wave a magic wand and make heroin and fentanyl 3 services and foster care services tracked in 3 disappear, would the opioid epidemic in Summit 4 County look different than it does now? 4 terms of the extent to which they relate 5 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. Calls 5 explicitly to opioid addiction? A. I believe in -- in 2016, our 6 for speculation. 7 7 Children's Services Bureau began tracking, A. I mean, if I had a magic wand, I'd 8 like, a specific -- I don't know what they 8 go back much farther than that and make sure 9 would call it, but I would call it, like, the 9 that the doctors and our community was educated 10 entrance point, what brought this kid into our 10 about the addiction rates and levels and let 11 system. And I believe it was in 2016, maybe 11 people know, if you get addicted to this, you 12 later in the year, they began specifically 12 are very likely going to be out in the street 13 identifying those. And I believe Director 13 looking for heroin. 14 Barnes talked about that, that they had seen an 14 Q. Okay. But that wasn't my question. 15 increase to the point that it became imperative 15 My question was if heroin wasn't available 16 that they focus on it so that they could 16 anymore, fentanyl wasn't available anymore, 17 quantify and understand how to budget for it. 17 what impact, if any, would that have on the 18 The costs for foster care and 18 opioid situation in Summit County? 19 placement have grown additionally, because with 19 A. If it --20 20 the prior forms of addiction that we'd seen in MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 21 Summit County -- crack, methamphetamine, 21 A. If it wasn't available in Summit 22 cocaine -- familial placement was always 22 County and people were addicted to opioids,

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23 they'd go someplace else to get it. That's

25 functioning. The -- it's not like they're

24 how -- that's how this addiction is

25

24 with a family member?

23 priority. Can a -- can this child be placed

And what has been incredibly

1	Page 262	1	Page 264
	not they're going to stay in bed and be	1	Ohio's Amended Responses and
	like, "Meh, it's not out there, so I'm good."	2	Objections to the Manufacturer
	The pill sickness that people get is what	3	Defendants' First Set of
	drives them out to find that heroin, because	4	Interrogatories and the National
	the pills were too expensive or harder to get.	5	Retail Pharmacy Defendants' First
6	, , ,	6	Set of Interrogatories Re: 30(b)(6)
1	heroin's been around. It's not like this is	7	Topics, was marked for purposes of
1	the first time heroin has been in Summit	8	identification.)
	County. But it was not so incredibly prevalent	9	
	until the space created by the opioid industry	10	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 11,
	brought it upon us.	11	Plaintiffs The City of Cleveland,
12	, 3	12	County of Cuyahoga, County of Summit
	wasn't any heroin available or fentanyl	13	and City of Akron's Supplemental
	available, but I still have this huge addicted	14	Amended Responses and
	population who are going to be sick, who are	15	Objections to the Manufacturer
	going to be seeking pills or seeking opium in	16	Defendant's First Set of
	some fashion.	17	Interrogatories, Submitted Pursuant
18	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	18	to Discovery Ruling No. 13, was
	decline in that situation?	19	marked for purposes of
20	, ,	20	identification.)
	fentanyl, if it wasn't available, would go	21	
	away. But I don't I don't know that I	22	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 12,
	can can speculate to that.	23	Spreadsheet Titled "Confidential
24	` ;	24	Protected Health Information -
25	ask you, actually, a different question that I	25	Produced Under a Protective Order -
	Page 263		Page 265
1	intended to ask you earlier, and I forgot.	1	Attorneys' Eyes Only, was marked for
2	Has Summit County seen an issue	2	purposes of identification.)
3	with drug dealers selling counterfeit	3	
4	prescription opioids?	4	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 13,
5	A. As far as I know that there have	5	Spreadsheet Titled "Confidential
6	been some that were like fentanyl that were	6	Protected Health Information -
7	being told as yes, I'm I am aware of	7	Produced Under a Protective Order -
8	that.	8	Attorneys' Eyes Only, was marked for
9	Q. Has that been a significant	9	purposes of identification.)
10	problem?	10	
11	A. I mean, any time fentanyl is in the	11	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 14,
12	community, if it's less than a milligram, it's	12	1/8/2019 Letter from Atty Linda
13	a significant problem, because we know how	13	Singer to Special Master David Cohen
14	potent it is.	14	Re: Plaintiffs' Response to
15	MS. WINNER: I think I'm going to	15	Manufacturer Defendants' Renewed
16	turn it over to one of my colleagues, so why	16	Motion to Compel Immediate and Full
17	don't we go off the record so we can switch	17	Compliance with Discovery Ruling
	places and move our boxes around.	18	Nos. 5 and 13, was marked for
19	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	19	purposes of identification.)
20		1	
	at 3:15.	21	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 15,
22	,	22	Spreadsheet Titled "Confidential
23		23	Protected Health Information -
24	, 1	24	Produced Under a Protective Order -
25	Summit County and the City of Akron,	25	Attorneys' Eyes Only, was marked for

1	Page 266	1	Page 268
2	purposes of identification.)	1	Plaintiffs used to identify the information required by the interrogatories at issue in
	(Thereuman Democition Evhibit 16		Discovery Ruling No. 5.
3	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 16, Spreadsheet Titled "Confidential	4	Q. Do you understand that ruling?
4 5	•	5	
5	Protected Health Information", was	l .	
6	marked for purposes of	6	Q. Have you had an opportunity to
7	identification.)	l _	review the Plaintiff's responses pursuant to
8	(Therepron Denosition Exhibit 17	8 9	Special Master Cohen's order?  A. Yes.
9	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 17,		
10	Document Listing Names and Dates of	10	Q. And did you do that in preparation
11	Summit County Overdose Deaths, was	12	for your deposition today?  A. I I didn't do it for week the
12	marked for purposes of		weekend.
13	identification.)	14	
14	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record at	15	
15		16	
	3:38.		Q. Did you speak with anyone, aside
17	EXAMINATION OF GRETA JOHNSON BY MS. FEINSTEIN:		from counsel, to prepare to testify on these topics?
		19	•
19	<ul><li>Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Johnson.</li><li>A. Good afternoon.</li></ul>		
20 21		21	those interrogatories. Q. Did you talk with anyone at
	Q. My name is Wendy West Feinstein.  We met briefly this morning before we went on		Rawlings about these topics?
	the record. I represent the Teva Defendants.	23	A. No.
24	I'm going to take over the	24	
	examination now, and a few of my colleagues may		specifically to respond to these top or to
23		23	
1	Page 267 have some additional questions after I'm done,	1	Page 269 be prepared to testify about these topics?
	okay?	2	A. Other than the interrogatories and
$\frac{2}{3}$	A. Sure.		the responses? Outside of that, just
4		4	discussion with counsel.
_	Q. You were designated on a number of topics, and my colleague, Ms. Winner, went	5	Q. Did you review Special Master
5	through some of those topics with you about	6	Cohen's order?
		0	
/	Valir decignations Hallr at the tanger that	7	
8	your designations. Four of the topics that were not the in the letter, but that were	7 8	A. I've seen it, yes.
	were not the in the letter, but that were	8	<ul><li>A. I've seen it, yes.</li><li>Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1,</li></ul>
9	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and	8 9	A. I've seen it, yes. Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1, right?
9 10	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19.	8 9 10	A. I've seen it, yes. Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1, right? A. Yes, yes.
9 10 11	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19.  A. Yes. I'm familiar with that.	8 9 10 11	A. I've seen it, yes. Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1, right? A. Yes, yes. Q. Okay, good. During the break, your
9 10 11 12	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19.  A. Yes. I'm familiar with that.  Q. Are you prepared to testify on	8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>A. I've seen it, yes.</li> <li>Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1,</li> <li>right?</li> <li>A. Yes, yes.</li> <li>Q. Okay, good. During the break, your</li> <li>counsel and everyone here was very patient as I</li> </ul>
9 10 11 12 13	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19.  A. Yes. I'm familiar with that. Q. Are you prepared to testify on those topics today?	8 9 10 11 12 13	A. I've seen it, yes. Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1, right? A. Yes, yes. Q. Okay, good. During the break, your counsel and everyone here was very patient as I handed you a series of documents, and I'd like
9 10 11 12 13 14	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19.  A. Yes. I'm familiar with that. Q. Are you prepared to testify on those topics today? A. I am.	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. I've seen it, yes. Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1, right? A. Yes, yes. Q. Okay, good. During the break, your counsel and everyone here was very patient as I handed you a series of documents, and I'd like to go through those right now.
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9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19.  A. Yes. I'm familiar with that. Q. Are you prepared to testify on those topics today? A. I am. MS. FLOWERS: To be clear, though, it's not 4, 5, 6 and 19. It's 4, 5, 6, and 19 as rewritten by Special Master Cohen.	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. I've seen it, yes. Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1, right? A. Yes, yes. Q. Okay, good. During the break, your counsel and everyone here was very patient as I handed you a series of documents, and I'd like to go through those right now. The the first document that we marked as an exhibit and that I put in front of you should be Exhibit 10, which is Summit
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19.  A. Yes. I'm familiar with that. Q. Are you prepared to testify on those topics today? A. I am.  MS. FLOWERS: To be clear, though, it's not 4, 5, 6 and 19. It's 4, 5, 6, and 19 as rewritten by Special Master Cohen.  MS. FEINSTEIN: Exactly. Yes.	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. I've seen it, yes. Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1, right? A. Yes, yes. Q. Okay, good. During the break, your counsel and everyone here was very patient as I handed you a series of documents, and I'd like to go through those right now. The the first document that we marked as an exhibit and that I put in front of you should be Exhibit 10, which is Summit County and the City of Akron, Ohio's Amended
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9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	were not the in the letter, but that were confirmed by e-mail, were Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19.  A. Yes. I'm familiar with that. Q. Are you prepared to testify on those topics today? A. I am. MS. FLOWERS: To be clear, though, it's not 4, 5, 6 and 19. It's 4, 5, 6, and 19 as rewritten by Special Master Cohen. MS. FEINSTEIN: Exactly. Yes. Thank you, Counsel. And we can read that into the record now. Special Master Cohen, after some	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. I've seen it, yes. Q. And it's attached to Exhibit 1, right? A. Yes, yes. Q. Okay, good. During the break, your counsel and everyone here was very patient as I handed you a series of documents, and I'd like to go through those right now. The the first document that we marked as an exhibit and that I put in front of you should be Exhibit 10, which is Summit County and the City of Akron, Ohio's Amended Responses and Objections to the Manufacturer Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and the National Retail Pharmacy Defendants' First
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Page 270 Page 272 1 Q. And it is dated, if you flip to --1 what information is to be contained in those 2 the pages are not numbered, but it's page 8, 2 spreadsheets? 3 the second to last page. This is a double 3 A. Well, I understand that the request 4 sided copy. 4 was made to try to identify individuals, and I 5 A. Yes. 5 know that the County's contention has always 6 Q. November 2, 2018? 6 been that this is not about any individual 7 A. Yes. 7 prescription or any individual person or case 8 O. Excellent. 8 of overdose, that it -- it is truly an 9 The next document that I've handed 9 aggregate of all of the harms. 10 to you and that we have marked as Exhibit 11 is So I guess as an attorney, I was 10 11 the Plaintiff -- Plaintiffs -- the City of 11 intrigued by this -- by this process, but I 12 Cleveland, County of Cuyahoga, County of 12 know that we provided, through Rawlings GS, 13 Summit, and City of Akron's Supplemental 13 some of this information in conjunction with 14 Amended Responses and Objections to the 14 the information that counsel received from 15 Manufacturer Defendants' First Set of 15 ARCOS. 16 Interrogatories Submitted Pursuant to Discovery Q. Okay. And it's -- it's your 16 17 Ruling 13. 17 understanding that the ARCOS data was used to 18 Do you have that in front of you as 18 respond to these interrogatories, or Rawlings 19 data? 19 Exhibit 11? 20 A. I do. 20 A. Well, Rawlings, yes. Q. And that document, if you turn 21 Q. Okay. Let's look next at 21 22 to -- the third to the last page is dated 22 Exhibit 11, which is the Plaintiff's response 23 December -- it's actually page 15. We've got 23 to -- revised response to Interrogatory No. 6. 24 page numbers on this copy. It's dated December 24 If I could direct your attention to 25 31, 2018. 25 the bottom of the first page of Exhibit 11, it Page 271 Page 273 1 A. Yes. 1 repeats the interrogatory there and requests 2 Q. Is that what you have in front of 2 the Plaintiffs to identify and describe 500 3 you? 3 prescriptions of opioids that were written in 4 Summit County in reliance on any alleged Yes. 4 A. 5 5 misrepresentations, omissions, or any alleged O. Excellent. 6 wrongdoing by any Defendant, correct? Is it your understanding that 7 pursuant to Exhibit 11, so the responses 7 A. Correct. 8 provided -- oh, I'm sorry -- pursuant to the 8 Q. To identify those 500 9 responses provided in Exhibit 10, that 9 prescriptions, Summit County provided to us the 10 spreadsheets were provided to counsel for the 10 spreadsheets that we have marked as Exhibit 12 11 Defendants? 11 and Exhibit 13. Do you have those in front of 12 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form. 12 you? A. I know that counsel was requested 13 13 A. I do. 14 to provide, I believe it was 500 different 14 Q. Okay. And, again, just to 15 instances, so I assumed they would be in a --15 reiterate, you have not seen Exhibit 12 or 13 16 in a spreadsheet. 16 earlier? 17 Q. Have you seen the spreadsheets 17 A. No. 18 before today? 18 Q. Before today? A. I have not. 19 A. Correct. I think I've -- I think 19 20 Q. Okay. At no point in your 20 I've seen them, that my counsel's had them. I 21 preparation did you review the spreadsheets, 21 have not reviewed them. 22 whether electronically or in print form? 22 Q. Okay. But you've reviewed the A. I did not review this -- the actual 23 23 written responses that we see in Exhibit 11,

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24 right?

A.

Yes, yes.

25

24 spreadsheets.

Q. Do you have an understanding of

Page 274 Page 276 1 Q. If I could direct your attention, 1 discovery process, and then the contract with 2 please, to page 14 of the written responses? 2 Rawlings to get the additional information as A. In -- in Exhibit 11? 3 requested by counsel. 3 4 Yes. 4 Q. Is it your understanding that O. 5 Yes, okay. 5 Rawlings obtained that information from A. Q. Directing your attention to the 6 CareSource and Medical Mutual of Ohio? 6 7 last paragraph on page 14 about, it looks like 7 A. I know that they have access to 8 maybe one sentence in, it says, "Bellwether 8 insurance forms and to pharmacy claims that I 9 Plaintiffs." Do you see where I am? 9 didn't know anybody had that source. So, yes, 10 A. I do. 10 I -- I became aware of that through preparation 11 Q. "Bellwether Plaintiffs contend that 11 for this. 12 each prescription in the previously provided 12 Q. And am I correct in identifying 13 Exhibit A was as a result of Manufacturer 13 those two entities as the entities from which 14 Defendants' deceptive marketing." 14 Rawlings got information to provide to the 15 Did I read that correctly? 15 Plaintiffs to provide to the Defendants in this A. You did. 16 16 case? Q. Is that your understanding of what A. I don't -- I don't know that. I 17 17 18 is represented in Exhibits 12 and 13? 18 can't confirm that. I don't have any 19 independent knowledge of that. MS. FLOWERS: Objection. I think 20 this goes beyond the redefinition by the 20 Q. You didn't review that information 21 Special Master, and -- that she testify on the 21 to prepare to testify on these topics for 22 criteria used to answer these interrogatories. 22 today? MS. FEINSTEIN: Thank you, Counsel. 23 A. I did not review --24 I'm just setting a foundation and identifying 24 MS. FLOWERS: Object to form. 25 the exhibit so that we have some basis to -- to 25 A. I did not review the Rawlings, Page 275 Page 277 1 ask about the criteria --1 their cri- -- their -- how they went about 2 MS. FLOWERS: Okay. 2 doing their job. MS. FEINSTEIN: -- in those 3 Q. Are you aware that the Plaintiffs 4 subpoenaed Rawlings to obtain information to 4 exhibits, okay? 5 respond to these interrogatories? A. I -- having not reviewed 12 and 13, 6 and seeing that they are double sided and what A. Yes. 7 appears to be a couple hundred pages, I don't 7 What is your understanding of why 8 know what's in these. 8 the Plaintiffs subpoenaed Rawlings to get that 9 information for the Plain- -- for the Q. Okay. A. So I -- they look like what would 10 10 Defendants? 11 go with a request like that. I see A. My understanding -- and, again, I 12 "manufacturer," "provider name," "patient key 12 know that -- that there was a reluctance or --13 name," so I see identifying factors. Makes 13 we didn't want this to come down to 14 sense, but I couldn't -- I couldn't swear to 14 individuals. So my understanding is that

15 that.Q. What is your understanding of where

17 the Plaintiffs obtained that information to

10 11 14 1 D C 1

18 provide it to the Defendants in response to

19 this interrogatory?

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20 A. The criterion we used or the --

21 Q. First the source. From where did

22 you -- did the Plaintiffs obtain that

23 information to provide it to the Defendants?

A. My understanding is that some of

25 the information started with our original

15 Rawlings was contacted because they have the

16 ability to mine that data, that would take -- I

17 can't even imagine if an individual could do

18 that on their own, if they had that access.

19 But apparently Rawlings has the access to those

20 records to provide what's contained in these

21 spreadsheets to defense counsel.

Q. And Plaintiffs did not have that

23 information themselves, right?

A. No. Oh, no. No, no.

Q. Do you know what CareSource is?

Page 280 Page 278 A. It's an insurance carrier of some 1 specific conversation with counsel. 2 sort. I think they do -- Caremark -- I don't Q. If I could direct your attention to 3 know if Caremark and CareSource are the same 3 one of the letters that I sent to you, or that 4 thing, but typically prescription coverage. 4 I marked for you, Exhibit 14, please. Q. Does CareSource provide coverage to 5 Do you have Exhibit 14 in front of 6 Summit County? 6 you? A. I believe -- I don't know if I 7 A. I do. 7 8 filled a prescription for myself, so that's a 8 MS. KEARSE: What was 14? 9 9 healthy year. THE WITNESS: It's a letter --I believe they are. That sounds 10 10 MS. FEINSTEIN: Should be the 11 familiar. I -- yeah, I believe they are. 11 letter from Linda Singer. Q. Do you know what Medical Mutual of 12 12 MS. KEARSE: Did I already eat it? 13 Ohio is? 13 MS. FEINSTEIN: Sorry, guys, I 14 A. Yes. That's an insurance provider. 14 tried to make this organized. O. And does Medical Mutual of Ohio Q. Do you have that in front of you? 15 15 16 provide insurance to Summit County? 16 A. I do. 17 A. I know that one. Yes. 17 Q. Have you seen Exhibit 14 before Q. I'll represent to you that it's my 18 today? 19 understanding, based on the information that we 19 A. I believe I have seen -- oh, yes, 20 received from counsel, that the exhibits that I 20 I've seen this list. 21 placed in front of you as -- marked as Exhibits 21 Q. And what page are you referring to? 22 A. I'm sorry. Page 2 stands out as --22 12 and 13 were identified by Plaintiffs' 23 counsel collectively, for all of the Track One 23 I recognize that page. 24 Plaintiffs, as the Exhibit A response for 24 Q. Okay. 25 That -- the -- all the rest. 25 Interrogatory No. 6. Page 279 Page 281 1 A. Okay. Q. This letter is dated January 8, 1 2 2019. It's addressed to Special Master David 2 Q. Is it your understanding, sitting 3 here today to testify about the criteria used 3 Cohen. 4 to identify prescriptions, that Plaintiffs 4 Do you know who Special Master 5 identified a number of prescriptions in an --5 David Cohen is? 6 in an Exhibit A that was provided to defense A. I know that he is -- I'm going to 7 counsel? 7 use the term probably incorrectly, but a

A. I understand that I -- I lost you 9 for a minute there. I understand that we --10 that criterion was established to obtain a 11 certain type or kind of record. 12 Q. Do you have an understanding that 13 Defendants received an initial Exhibit A with 14 500 prescriptions on it, using certain 15 criteria, and then just recently, on Friday, 16 received a second Exhibit A with different 17 criteria? 18 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 19 MS. FLOWERS: Object to form. 20 A. I -- I am not aware of that.

Q. So you're not aware of an updated 22 spreadsheet that we received from Plaintiffs on

A. I -- I don't recall having that

MS. FLOWERS: The same objection.

8 magistrate or some -- some sort of official 9 within this case. I've -- I've seen his name 10 and heard him referred to multiple times. Q. Did you review this letter in 12 preparation for your testimony today? A. I believe we discussed this just 13 14 last week. 15 Q. Is it your understanding that this 16 letter was sent to Special Master Cohen, but 17 then copied to all defense counsel in the case? 18 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. 19 A. I don't know how to answer that. 20 Q. Do you understand this letter to be 21 providing additional information related to the 22 interrogatory responses that the Plaintiffs 23 provided to the Defendants, specifically 24 Interrogatories No. 6, 7, and 10? 25 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. Beyond

23 Friday of last week?

21

24

Page 282 Page 284 1 the scope. 1 before, is it your understanding that those are 2 A. Could you ask that question again, 2 lists of the exhibits that Plaintiff -- the 3 please? 3 prescriptions that Plaintiffs identified as 4 Q. Sure. 4 described in Ms. Singer's letter? 5 A. Sorry. I'm just trying to 5 A. So you're saying this was Exhibit A 6 familiarize myself with the document. 6 to --Q. Sure. Do you understand this 7 Q. Those two documents, yes. 8 letter to be a -- further information from the 8 A. Again, from looking at just the 9 Plaintiffs to the Defendants in response to 9 front page, that's what it appears to be. But 10 Interrogatories Nos. 6, 7, and 10, which are 10 having not reviewed Exhibits 12 and 13 before, 11 the topics that you've been designated on, 11 I couldn't definitively say. But I have no 12 Deposition Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19, as modified 12 reason to doubt that. 13 by Special Master Cohen? 13 Q. The criteria that we just read in 14 A. That's -- yeah, that's -- yes, 14 Exhibit 14 in Ms. Singer's letter, do you have 15 that's what the -- I -- I hesitate to answer 15 any understanding of whether those were the 16 that, because I still don't think I understand 16 criteria used to identify the 500 prescriptions 17 what -- what you're asking me, what it does, 17 in response to the interrogatories? 18 and I --A. I do. The -- the criterion we 19 Q. Did you -- do you understand this 19 discussed was folks who were not diagnosed with 20 letter to be providing additional information 20 cancer, folks who were receiving over 120 MME 21 in response to those interrogatories? 21 prescriptions, and folks who had been diagnosed 22 A. Yes. 22 with a -- a chemical dependency previously, or 23 MS. FLOWERS: Object to form. 23 an -- so the -- that touches on two of them in 24 Q. Okay. If I could direct your 24 a little bit of a different vein. 25 attention to page 4 of Exhibit 14, Section 2. 25 Q. Do you know whether there was an Page 283 Page 285 1 A. Okay. 1 initial -- strike that. 2 So if you continue down in Exhibit 2 Q. Section 2 on page 4 is about 3 halfway down the page, is titled, "Plaintiffs 3 14, the sentence we just read identified a 4 have completely responded to Interrogatories 4 threshold dosing of 150 MME --5 Nos. 6, 7, and 10." 5 A. Right. Do you see that? 6 Q. -- right? 6 7 7 A. Correct. A. I do. Q. About halfway down that page, right 8 Q. Did -- are you aware of the 9 Plaintiffs identifying an initial list --9 after the parenthetical reference, there's a 10 sentence that begins with "Exhibit A." Do you 10 A. Yes. 11 see that? 11 Q. -- of prescriptions, of 500 12 A. I do. 12 prescriptions with a threshold of 150 MME? A. So the original list was produced 13 13 Q. It reads, "Exhibit A is a 14 spreadsheet that identifies 500 patients by 14 at 150, and then the supplemental list was 120? 15 name in the relevant jurisdictions who have not 15 Q. Right. 16 been treated for cancer, who have been 16 A. Is that what you're asking me? 17 diagnosed with opioid use disorder, and who 17 Q. I'm -- I'm asking -- well, I was 18 were provided daily doses of opioids of 150 MME 18 asking first whether you understood where there 19 was an initial list of 500 prescriptions --19 or higher." 20 20 That's what it says, yes. Did I read that correctly? 21 A. You did. 21 Q. -- is that, as the corporate 22 designee for Summit County on this topic, is Q. Is it your understanding that the 23 exhibits, the spreadsheets that I provided you, 23 that your understanding of what the original 24 12 and 13, understanding that you haven't seen 24 500 prescriptions, the threshold dosing was?

MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

25

25 the printed versions or electronic versions

Page 286 Page 288 1 A. I'm just going to rely on my 1 Ms. Singer's January 8, 2019 letter, in the 2 preparation in that my understanding was that 2 last paragraph on page 4 of Exhibit 14, reads, 3 "Nonetheless, in an effort to compromise and to 3 we had set the criterion to be non-cancer 4 meet Defendants' concerns, Plaintiffs will 4 patients, 120 ME -- MME, and folks who suffered 5 already from addiction diagnoses. 5 produce, this week, a revised spreadsheet The -- the 150 is something that I 6 identifying approximately 730 additional 7 patients who were prescribed daily doses of 7 am not familiar with. 8 opioids of 120 MME or higher." Q. Okay. So as a part of your 9 Do you see that? 9 preparation, you weren't making 10 any distinguish -- you didn't make any 10 A. I do. 11 distinction between the initial produced list Q. Does that -- reading those -- those 11 12 of 500 prescriptions versus the later produced 12 two sentences together --13 list of 730 prescriptions at 120 MME; is that 13 A. Yes. 14 right? 14 -- does that help refresh your 15 recollection --15 A. No. My -- my preparation has been 16 focused on the aggregate. My preparation has 16 Α. 17 never been about any individual prescription 17 O. -- or does it inform you --18 and what it was for, to whom it was prescribed, 18 19 O. -- of the course of events? 19 or even, frankly, who prescribed it. So I 20 prepared to respond to the request of defense 20 A. I understand where we are now. 21 Q. Okay. And sorry for the confusion. 21 counsel by understanding the criterion and how 22 we went about getting that information from 22 A. No, that's fine. 23 Q. This is a bit of a slog --23 Rawlings. 24 24 A. Right, right. I feel like I have seen this 25 -- so why don't we kind of rewind a 25 document, because this list looks familiar to Page 289 1 me, but I have not -- I would not say I have 1 bit --2 memorized it or --2 Sure. A. 3 Q. Sure. Under---3 Q. -- and just so we've got kind of a 4 -- done a deep dive. 4 clean record of -- of what Summit County's O. Understood. Well, let me direct 5 testimony is on this point. 6 you to the -- still on page 4, the last A. Absolutely. 6 7 paragraph on that page, and see if that helps 7 Q. Okay. So is it Summit County's 8 refresh your recollection of -- of what 8 position that the initial Exhibit A that was 9 transpired. So we just read, in the first full 9 produced in response to the Defendant --10 paragraph under Section 2, in which Ms. Singer 10 Manufacturer Defendants' interrogatories 11 writes, "Plaintiffs have completely responded 11 identified 500 prescriptions using criteria 12 to Interrogatories Nos. 6, 7, and 10," and 12 that the Plaintiffs had not -- the patients, 13 then -- and I'll paraphrase, because we've 13 rather, had not been treated for cancer, have 14 already read it into the record -- and 14 been diagnosed with opioid use disorder, and 15 provided, in an Exhibit A, 500 prescriptions 15 were prescribed daily doses of opioids of 150 16 with the criteria of they have not been treated 16 MME or higher? 17 for cancer, have been diagnosed with opioid use 17 A. Correct. 18 disorder, and who were prescribed daily doses 18 Q. More recently --19 of 150 MME or higher, right? 19 O. -- the Plaintiffs identified an 20 Sure, yes. 20 A. 21 Q. That's what this says? 21 additional 730 prescriptions using criter---22 Absolutely. 22 strike that. A. 23 Q. Okay. Continuing down --23 Using at least -- a new dosing 24 A. Yes. 24 criteria? 25 -- the last paragraph of 25 Yes. A.

73 (Pages 286 - 289)

1 Q. A lower dosing --

- 2 A. A lower --
- 3 Q. -- criteria --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 O. -- of 120 MME?
- 6 A. Correct. And I believe that lower
- 7 dosing criteria was in accordance with the
- 8 CDC's warning that use at that level and
- 9 anything over 90 MME had a greater chance for
- 10 addiction and misuse.
- 11 Q. So that dosing criteria of 120 MME
- 12 came from the CDC?
- 13 A. Yes. I believe the CDC's
- 14 statements on it are anything over 90 is sort
- 15 of what I would call a danger zone, certainly.
- 16 Q. And just to kind of close the loop
- 17 on these documents that I've placed in front of
- 18 you, if you could please take a look at
- 19 Exhibits 15 and 16 --
- A. Yeah.
- 21 O. -- which are the other -- the
- 22 additional spreadsheets.
- 23 A. Sure.
- Q. Have you seen either Exhibits 15 or
- 25 16 before today?

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- 1 A. I have not.
- Q. And I'll represent to you for the
- 3 record that these are the prescriptions that we
- 4 received on Friday, January 19 -- or January
- 5 11, 2019, for the revised Exhibit A response --
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. -- at 120 MME.
- 8 A. Okay.
- 9 Q. Okay. The source of the data, it's
- 10 my understanding, continue to be Rawlings?
- 11 A. Yes
- O. And also was CareSource and Medical
- 13 Mutual of Ohio data. Is that your
- 14 understanding as well?
- 15 A. That's my understanding.
- 16 Q. We can set those spreadsheets
- 17 aside, but I -- if you need to refer to them at
- 18 any point --
- 19 A. Okay.
- Q. -- please feel free.
- 21 A. Okay.
- Q. So what -- the letter from
- 23 Ms. Singer that we just looked at, Exhibit 14,
- 24 that had the three sort of parameters for the
- 25 identification of the prescriptions, from where

Page 290 Page 292

1 did the Plaintiffs get those parameters?

A. Well, again, I think our contention 3 has always been and will continue to be that it

4 is not about any one individual prescription or

5 any two or any 500, but really the aggregate

6 effect.

7 After consultation with the

8 attorneys, I've learned that this was what the

9 experts suggested to properly respond to the

10 order, these were the appropriate criterion to 11 do.

12 Q. Is it your understanding that for

13 the prescriptions identified in the

14 spreadsheets that were Exhibits A to the

15 interrogatories, and that we've marked as

16 separate deposition exhibits here today, that

17 all three of those criteria had to have been

18 met for the prescription to be included in the

19 list?

21

- A. That was my understanding.
  - Q. Are there any prescriptions listed
- 22 in the Exhibit A that do not meet the -- those 23 criteria?
- 24 A. I have not reviewed Exhibit A, so I
- 25 could not speak to that.

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1 Q. Did you receive any information, as

2 a part of your preparation to testify on the 3 criteria today, that when the analysis was

4 done, that some of the prescriptions that were

5 provided to the Defendants did not meet all

6 three of those criteria?

7 A. I don't have that -- I have not

8 received any of that type of information.

9 Q. So it's your understanding, and

10 just to make sure that we're all on the same

11 page, that all of the prescriptions identified12 in Plaintiff's Exhibit A to the Manufacturer

13 Defendants' interrogatories, meet the three

14 criteria of no cancer diagnosis, 120 MME for

15 the most recent list, and diagnosis of opioid

16 use disorder; is that right?

17 A. Again, I -- I just hesitate to

18 confirm what's in here without having reviewed

19 it, but if that's what was requested by

20 Rawlings and this is the report given by them,

21 I would assume that it -- that that is

22 accurate.

23 Q. You're designated today to talk

24 about the criteria that were used by

25 Plaintiffs, right?

1 A. Uh-huh, correct.

- 2 Q. Are you aware of any prescriptions
- 3 that have been identified by the Plaintiffs to
- 4 the Defendants in this case that utilize any
- 5 other criteria?
- A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 7 Q. Are you aware of any prescriptions
- 8 that have been identified that do not meet
- 9 those three criteria that we've just listed?
- A. In these documents that you've
- 11 marked, 12, 13, 15, and 16, I am not aware that
- 12 any of those would exist in there.
- 13 Q. Do you know why the initial
- 14 identification of 500 exhibit used a threshold
- 15 dosing of 150 MME?
- A. Well, I know that the CDC, again,
- 17 has said over 90, so I -- I can assume that we
- 18 would be looking at above 90 to start with. I
- 19 don't have direct knowledge of why it was
- 20 lowered to 120, other than to better comport
- 21 with the directives of the Special Master on
- 22 that.
- 23 Do you know why it was started at
- 24 150?

1

25 I don't. Page 294 1 lowered it to 120?

- A. I do not.
- 3 Q. And you don't know who within
- 4 Summit County, other than potentially
- 5 Dr. Smith, who would have that information?
- MS. FLOWERS: Objection. Asked and 7 answered.

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- 8 A. I -- Dr. Smith is the medical
- 9 doctor who I think would be in the best
- 10 position to answer that. Perhaps Donna Skoda,
- 11 her -- as the director of Summit County Public
- 12 Health, would have some insight into the
- 13 difference between why 150 and 120 would be so
- 14 important.
- 15 Q. Did -- did you see in your
- 16 preparation any documents from the Plaintiffs
- 17 to Rawlings identifying the criteria that the
- 18 Plaintiffs wanted to apply to the collection of
- 19 data from Rawlings?
- 20 A. No. We -- we talked about the
- 21 subpoena for it, and -- and because I -- I did
- 22 not know what Rawlings was and I had lots of
- 23 question about how that happened, and we -- we
- 24 talked about the subpoena being served than --
- 25 than -- I think that it had contained the

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4

- Q. Do you know who at Summit County 2 who might have that information?
- A. Perhaps Dr. Doug Smith would be the
- 4 person to speak to about the risks that are
- 5 posed by opioids with an MME that high.
- 6 Frankly, I thought they stopped at 120. I did 7 not realize it could go up to 150. So I -- I'm
- 8 not sure, other than I know, again, the
- 9 preparation was looking at what the CDC had 10 discussed.
- Q. Did you talk with Dr. Smith at all 12 in preparation --
- 13 A. I read his --
- Q. -- to testify on those topics? 14
- 15 A. I did not. I read his deposition.
- Q. Okay. But for purposes of your 16
- 17 testimony on Topics 4, 5, 6, and 19 of the
- 18 30(b)(6) notice, you did not have any
- 19 discussions with Dr. Smith?
- 20 A. I did not.
- 21 Q. And other than what you've just
- 22 told me about your understanding of the CDC
- 23 guidelines, you don't have any information
- 24 about how Plaintiffs identified the criteria,
- 25 first for a 150 MME threshold, and then later

1 criterion, but I do not believe I have reviewed

- 2 the actual document.
- 3 Q. Did you review the subpoena?
- A. No, I don't believe I reviewed the 5 subpoena.
- Q. Did you see any documents that
- 7 related to the criteria utilized by the
- 8 Plaintiffs to identify the prescriptions?
- A. There was an internally created
- 10 document where I -- we talked about what was -
- 11 what the criterion was. It was all during
- 12 preparation with counsel, so it would -- it was
- 13 a document that was created by -- by counsel
- 14 for me to review.
- 15 Q. A document created for purposes of
- 16 preparing you to testify as the corporate
- 17 designee on this topic?
- 18 A.
- 19 Q. Do you have that document with you
- 20 today?
- 21 A. I -- I don't have the document with
- 22 me.
- 23 MS. KEARSE: And, Counsel, it was
- 24 in consultation for her testimony in this case,
- 25 which would be privileged information. We've

1 provided coun- -- we've provided you with a

- 2 witness, a 30(b) witness to talk about the
- 3 criteria. Our work product and anything we've
- 4 shared is our work product, and it's privileged
- 5 information.
- 6 MS. FEINSTEIN: Yeah. And,
- 7 Counsel, we can visit --
- MS. KEARSE: That's fine.
- MS. FEINSTEIN: -- on this topic at
- 10 a later date, but I disagree that if it was
- 11 something that -- that the 30(b)(6) witness
- 12 reviewed and relied upon for purposes of her
- 13 corporate designee testimony, I think that we
- 14 are entitled to see it. But we can discuss
- 15 that some other time.
- MS. KEARSE: And, Counsel, I
- 17 believe, as her -- as her attorney, we're
- 18 allowed to have conversations and have work
- 19 product information that would be privileged
- 20 information for -- in consultation for her
- 21 preparation today.
- 22 MS. FEINSTEIN: Yeah, and -- we'll
- 23 discuss at another time, but, thank you. Your
- 24 objection is noted. I appreciate that.
- 25 BY MS. FEINSTEIN:

- Page 299 Q. Did you review any other documents, 2 other than the -- the document that your
- 3 counsel has asserted a work product privilege
- 4 about, to develop an understanding of the
- 5 criteria used by Plaintiffs to identify the
- 6 prescriptions?
- 7 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
- 8 Lack of foundation.
- A. I -- there were some -- and I don't
- 10 know if they were objections or
- 11 interrogatories, but there was a pleading that
- 12 I reviewed that I feel like that's where I --
- 13 there was a pleading that I reviewed. I -- I
- 14 can't recall which one it was, but I remember
- 15 attaching my notes to the front of it to -- to
- 16 keep it front of mind.
- 17 Q. Was it either Exhibit 10 or 11?
- 18 It's right there, I think, flipped over.
- A. I think that's right, because I
- 20 remember seeing the doctors' names at the
- 21 bottom of the page. So 10 would have been
- 22 included. Yes, I believe 10 and 11 were in
- 23 that packet, as well as the -- as this letter
- 24 from Attorney Singer, were things that sort of
- 25 had grouped together.

Q. So in preparation regarding the

- 2 criteria utilized by Plaintiffs, you reviewed
- 3 Exhibit 10, Exhibit 11, and Exhibit 14?
- 4 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
- 5 Lack of foundation.
- A. I reviewed 10 and 11. I feel like
- 7 I -- I don't know how you differentiate between
- 8 looked at and reviewed. I -- this -- Exhibit
- 9 14 is familiar to me because I recognize seeing
- 10 this list. I -- I would not say that I
- 11 reviewed it in depth.
- Q. And the explanations that we just 12
- 13 reviewed on page 4 of Exhibit 14, you had not
- 14 seen those before today?
- 15 MS. FLOWERS: Objection.
  - A. I believe I've seen this document.
- 17 I don't -- I couldn't say that I read them with
- 18 any explicit detail, but it is familiar to me.
- 19 Q. Let's talk about the -- the
- 20 criteria a bit more. The prescriptions that
- 21 are listed by the Plaintiffs in the Exhibit A
- 22 include the criteria "not treated for cancer,"
- 23 right?

16

- 24 A. So you're back -- you're referring
- 25 back to 12 and 13?

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- Q. The prescriptions that were 1
- 2 identified, so I don't want to get bogged down
- 3 on -- on the documents if you haven't -- if
- 4 you're not comfortable with the documents. But
- 5 you're here to testify about the criteria --
  - A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- used by the Plaintiffs --
- 8 Yes.
- 9 -- to identify prescriptions,
- 10 right?

- 11 Correct.
- 12 So one of those criteria is whether
- 13 the patients had -- did not have -- were not
- 14 treated for cancer; is that right?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- Q. What criteria did Plaintiffs use to
- 17 determine whether a patient had been treated
- 18 with cancer -- or had not been treated for
- 19 cancer?
- 20 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. Calls for
- 21 speculation.
- 22 A. That's information that I am of the
- 23 understanding that Rawlings had the access to.
- 24 I'm not sure how else that would have been
- 25 obtained other than through this third-party

1 data mine.

- Q. Did Plaintiffs provide to Rawlings 3 any information for it to make the
- 4 determination that the prescriptions provided
- 5 identified patients who had not been treated
- 6 for cancer?
- MS. FLOWERS: Objection. 7
- 8 A. Did -- could you say that again?
- Q. Did Plaintiffs provide to Rawlings
- 10 any information for it, Rawlings, to make the
- 11 determination that the prescriptions provided
- 12 identified patients who had not been treated
- 13 for cancer?
- 14 A. That was one of the criterion we
- 15 asked Rawlings to use. I don't -- I feel like
- 16 I'm still not understanding what you're asking 17 me.
- 18 Q. What sources of information were
- 19 used to confirm that the patients had not been
- 20 treated for cancer?
- 21 A. By Rawlings? I -- I don't know
- 22 what Rawlings' methodology was.
- Q. What did Plaintiffs tell Rawlings
- 24 that Plaintiffs needed?
- 25 My understanding --

- Page 303 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
- 2 A. My understanding is that we
- 3 requested prescriptions for those three things
- 4 we've discussed: folks who did not have
- 5 cancer, folks with a dependency, and over 120
- 6 MME.

1

- 7 Q. And you don't have any information
- 8 about how Rawlings then determined whether or
- 9 not the patients or the prescriptions
- 10 identified had no cancer treatment?
- A. I -- I do not know how Rawlings'
- 12 data mine works internally.
- 13 Q. And you don't know what sources of
- 14 information Rawlings used to confirm that the
- 15 prescriptions had no treatment for cancer?
- A. Other than what we've referred to
- 17 between Medical Mutual and CareSource, which I
- 18 assume there are claims and documentation
- 19 available through those two entities.
- Q. Do you know whether Rawlings had 20
- 21 access to underlying information to confirm
- 22 that the -- the prescriptions were not for the
- 23 treatment of cancer?
- A. I do not know what information
- 25 Rawlings had.

- 1 Q. Does Summit contend that all of --2 all opioid prescriptions for patients who are
- 3 not treated for cancer are unauthorized,
- 4 medically unnecessary, ineffective, or harmful? 5
  - MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
- A. I'm sorry. My brain is going a 6
- 7 little slow today. Could you repeat that? Q. Sure. Does Summit County contend 8
- 9 that all opioid prescriptions for patients who
- 10 are not treated for cancer are unauthorized,
- 11 medically unnecessary, ineffective, or harmful?
- 12
- 13 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
- 14 A. Not all.
- 15 O. Is --
- 16 A. You don't -- I guess, if I can say
- 17 it this way. We don't contend that every
- 18 person who doesn't have cancer who gets an
- 19 opioid prescription, it's -- that it's
- 20 improper, for lack of a better term.
- 21 Q. Fair enough. Does Summit County
- 22 contend that any opioid prescription for
- 23 conditions other than cancer were written as a
- 24 result of any wrongdoing by the Defendants?
- 25 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
  - Page 305
- Well, certainly doctors who wrote 1
- 2 prescriptions for opioids for chronic pain who
- 3 did not have the accurate and appropriate
- 4 information about levels of addiction and
- 5 potential for diversion, potential for misuse,
- 6 while the person in front of them certainly may
- 7 have had pain, Summit County contends that --
- 8 that those doctors did not have the right
- 9 information. And so had they had the right
- 10 information, there could have been another
- 11 result for that patient.
- 12 Q. Does Summit County contend that the
- 13 prescriptions it identified in the Exhibit A to 14 the interrogatory were unauthorized, medically
- 15 unnecessary, ineffective, or harmful?
  - MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
- 16 17 A. These documents were produced in
- 18 response to the directives of the Special
- 19 Master to comply with individual prescriptions,
- 20 which, again, has never been the contention of
- 21 the County. The contention of the County has
- 22 always been that the aggregate harm caused by
- 23 these, and others, created a supply in our
- 24 community that resulted in this epidemic.
- 25 So --

Q. In identifying those criteria, did

- 2 the Special Ma- -- is it your understanding
- 3 that the Special Master required the Plaintiffs
- 4 to apply the criteria that the patients had not
- 5 been treated for cancer?
  - MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
- 7 A. I don't know the answer to that
- 8 one.
- Q. Do you have any understanding of 10 why Plaintiffs applied that criteria to this
- 11 list?
- 12 A. Because that's what opioids were
- 13 originally used for. They were for cancer
- 14 treatment. They were for acute pain from
- 15 surgical procedures.
- It wasn't until this change in
- 17 methodology and until pain becoming the fifth
- 18 vital sign and this sort of messaging from
- 19 manufacturers that -- that opioids were an
- 20 effective and safe way to treat chronic pain,
- 21 that this really became a problem.
- 22 So identifying patients who did not
- 23 have cancer seemed like a reasonable place to
- 24 start, since that was the original use of -- of
- 25 these medications.

- 1 Q. Is it Summit's contention that any
- 2 opioid prescription with a daily dose of 120
- 3 MME or higher was inappropriate?
- 4 A. Of any prescription?
- Q. Yes, any opioid prescription with a
- 6 daily dose of 120 MME or higher was
- 7 inappropriate?
- 8 A. No. Certainly there are
- 9 end-of-life care and cancer care or even, I'm
- 10 sure, under hospital supervision, folks who've
- 11 just come out of procedures that that would be
- 12 appropriate.
- 13 Q. Does Summit contend that the
- 14 prescriptions identified in the Exhibit A as
- 15 being prescriptions of 120 MME per day or
- 16 higher were written as a result of manufacturer
- 17 marketing?
- A. They were written -- I certainly
- 19 think it played a role or could have played a
- 20 role in any number of the prescriptions.
- 21 Q. What sources of information did the
- 22 Plaintiff use to identify whether any of the
- 23 prescriptions identified in exhibit -- in the
- 24 Exhibit A that were provided to Defendants were
- 25 the result of manufacturer marketing?

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- Q. The criteria of 120 MME that's
- 2 applied to the later list, you testified
- 3 earlier that the Plaintiffs identified that
- 4 number after consulting the CDC guidelines,
- 5 right?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. And it's your understanding that
- 8 the CDC guidelines are 90 per day?
- A. Well, the CDC guidelines indicated
- 10 that doses of over 90 are, I think I called it
- 11 the danger zone. That's what it reads to me,
- 12 in that that is where there exist a much higher
- 13 likelihood for addiction and misuse is over 90.
- O. How did Plaintiffs land on 120,
- 15 then, as the threshold dosing amount to
- 16 identify the prescriptions?
- 17 A. Well, it's my understanding that --
- 18 and just what I've seen, they come in 30, 60,
- 19 90, 120. So over 90, the next natural dosing
- 20 would be 120.
- 21 Q. And you don't have any
- 22 understanding of why initially 150 was chosen
- 23 and later 120 was applied?
- 24 A. I do not.
- 25 MS. FLOWERS: Objection.

Page 309 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.

Page 308

- 1 2 A. Did we -- I don't -- could you ask
- 3 that again, please?
- Q. Sure. So I asked you whether it
- 5 was Summit's contention that manufacturer
- 6 marketing could play a role --
  - A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- in prescriptions above 120 MME
- 9 per day, right?
- 10 A. Sure, uh-huh.
- 11 O. And you said that it could for
- 12 some?

- 13 A. Sure.
- 14 And my question, then, is with
- 15 respect to the prescriptions that have been
- 16 identified for the Plaintiffs for purposes of
- 17 responding to the interrogatories, did
- 18 Plaintiffs use any source of information to
- 19 determine whether the prescriptions they've
- 20 listed were, in fact, the result of
- 21 manufacturer marketing?
- 22 A. Well, I'm certain that they could
- 23 in some instances. I know that we are aware of
- 24 calls being made to doctors by representatives
- 25 in the community, and certainly even after

Page 310 Page 312 1 there was suspected improper prescriptions 1 to understand from you, whether those two 2 going on, calls were still being made by 2 criteria, either together or either one, it's 3 manufacturers to some of the doctors in the 3 Plaintiff's position that the prescriptions 4 area, so, again I -- I have not looked at these 4 meeting those criteria were written as a result 5 individuals, but I'm -- I'm certain that 5 of manufacturer marketing? 6 information could be extrapolated in some way. A. I'm with you now. Q. Did Summit reach out to any of the 7 Summit County contends that it 8 prescribers identified for these prescriptions 8 certainly played a role, that the marketing and 9 to ask the doctors whether or not manufacturer 9 the inaccurate information that was provided 10 marketing played a role in their decision to 10 certainly let doctors and their patients 11 prescribe? 11 believe that these types of dosing for 12 A. I know that, through counsel, 12 non-cancer treatment was safe when, you know, 13 there's been discussions with doctors about 13 certainly it was not at the time. 14 prescribing practices and industry norms at the 14 Q. Is Summit County able to identify 15 time, but as -- as a county entity, we did not 15 any specific prescriptions of those it obtained 16 reach out and ask about these patients. 16 from Rawlings that were the result of 17 The County engaged in ways to try 17 manufacturer marketing? 18 and educate doctors, certainly the doctors 18 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. 19 who -- I mean, I see -- I see Harper on here, 19 A. Specifically, no, I can't point to 20 on the first page, so certainly the County, 20 one of these and say this person received it 21 through law enforcement, intervened in that 21 because of marketing. But certainly, again, it 22 practice. 22 can be extrapolated that some calls were being 23 Q. Is it -- strike that. 23 made by reps from certain manufacturers to some 24 Is it your understanding that the 24 of the doctors on this list. 25 prescriptions identified in response to the 25 MS. FEINSTEIN: All right. Why Page 311 Page 313 1 interrogatory include prescriptions that were 1 don't we take a break here. 2 written as a result of manufacturer marketing? 2 THE WITNESS: Okay. A. I -- is that -- is that different 3 3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record 4 than what you asked me before? I'm sorry. 4 at 4:29. Q. So you're here to talk to us about 5 5 (A recess was taken.) 6 the criteria used to identify, and I'm trying THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record at 6 7 to understand what criteria --7 5:05. A. Yeah, I'm sorry. I'm trying really 8 BY MS. FEINSTEIN: 9 hard to follow your questions. I really am. Q. Thank you. Ms. Johnson, before the 10 MS. KEARSE: Maybe -- maybe we can 10 break we were going through the criteria used 11 take a break, too, at some point. I know it's 11 to identify the prescriptions in response to 12 just getting late in the afternoon. 12 the Manufacturer Defendants' interrogatories, 13 MS. FEINSTEIN: Sure, sure, yeah. 13 and -- and I'd like to return to that topic --14 Q. Let me just try to -- I'll try to 14 A. Great. 15 rephrase it, okay? And see if we can get on 15 Q. -- to continue that discussion. 16 the same page. The -- Summit County is not 17 So we've talked about the not 17 contending that anything above 120 MME is 18 treated for cancer --18 improper as a matter of that dosing level, 19 A. Right. 19 right? 20 Q. -- criteria being used, right? 20 A. Not in every circumstance. 21 And we've talked about the daily 21 Q. Exactly. 22 dosing of 120 MME --22 Correct. 23 A. Correct. 23 So there could be some 24 Q. -- right? 24 circumstances --25 And so I was asking, and I'm trying 25 A. Absolutely.

- 1 Q. -- where it would be appropriate; 2 is that right?
- 3 A. Of course.
- 4 O. But there are other circumstances
- 5 in which Summit County maintains that it may
- 6 not be appropriate; is that correct?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. Does Summit County contend that
- 9 anything above 150 MME is improper?
- 10 A. Not in and of itself, as a
- 11 stand-alone.
- 12 Q. Combined with other criteria, it
- 13 potentially could be; is that right?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. If I could please direct your
- 16 attention to Exhibit 11. We were looking at
- 17 Exhibit 11 a little bit before the break.
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 Q. This is the -- the document that
- 20 includes the Plaintiffs' responses to
- 21 Interrogatory No. 6, correct?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. If I could direct your attention,
- 24 please, to page 15 of Exhibit 11.
- A. Okay.

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24

- Q. The first full paragraph on page 15
- 2 indicates that the list of prescriptions
- 3 provided by the Plaintiffs includes individuals
- 4 who are prescribed reformulated OxyContin,
- 5 Hysingla ER, Opana ER, Exalgo, and Xartemis
- 6 XR -- and I probably mangled the
- 7 pronunciations -- as abuse-deterrent
- 8 formulations of Defendants' opioids.
- 9 Do you see that?
- 10 A. I do see that.
- 11 Q. Is it your understanding that the
- 12 list of prescriptions included those --
- 13 prescriptions for those products?
- 14 A. The list of prescriptions -- say
- 15 that last part again.
- 16 Q. Is it your understanding that the
- 17 list of prescriptions identified by the
- 18 Plaintiffs in response to the interrogatories
- 19 included prescription of those reformulated
- 20 products that are listed in Exhibit 11?
- A. That's what the letter states, that
- 22 it in- -- that this list includes those.
- Q. Do you have any reason to believe
- 24 otherwise?
- 25 A. No.

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- 1 Q. Do you have any information about
- 2 what criteria were used to identify those
- 3 prescriptions of reformulated products listed 4 in Exhibit 11?
- A. The same criterion that we
- 6 submitted, the 120, the opioid -- or the
- 7 dependency and non-cancer patient.
  - Q. Was an additional criteria applied
- 9 to those reformulated products in that
- 10 Plaintiffs maintain that they were not
- 11 abuse-deterrent?
- 12 A. The three criterion remained the
- 13 same. It's my understanding that all of these
- 14 were produced in response to those three
- 15 crit- -- three criterion that we have talked
- 16 about at length.
- 17 Q. There were no additional criteria
- 18 applied for these reformulated products?
- 19 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. And in nothing that you reviewed in
- 21 preparation for your testimony on these topics
- 22 led you to believe there were different
- 23 criteria used for those products?
  - A. Nothing.
- Q. Directing your attention now to the

- 1 next paragraph now on page 15 of Exhibit 11.
- 2 The letter reads that "The prescriptions for
- 3 Actiq, Fentora, and Subsys included in the list
- 4 of prescriptions, Exhibit A, were prescribed to
- 5 individuals who did not have a recent diagnosis
- 6 for cancer."
- 7 Do you see that?
- 8 A. I do.
- 9 Q. Did I read that correctly?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. What criteria did Plaintiffs use to
- 12 determine whether a patient had a recent
- 13 diagnosis of cancer?
- 14 A. I don't know what Rawlings used as
- 15 their criterion. I know that the criterion we
- 16 gave to them were the three that we continue to
- 17 talk about.
- 18 Q. And so for the criteria for the --
- 19 the Actiq, Fentora, and Subsys prescriptions
- 20 identified in the list, Plaintiffs told
- 21 Rawlings to pull those prescriptions or include
- 22 those prescriptions for which the prescription
- 23 did not -- the recipient of the prescription
- 24 did not have a recent diagnosis of cancer; is
- 25 that right?

1 A. I --2 MS. FLC

MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.

A. Yeah, I'm not going to use the word

4 "recent." I -- I -- the criterion that we gave

5 to Rawlings did not have the word "recent" that6 I am aware of.

7 Q. The letter, Exhibit 11, includes

8 that word, right?

A. The letter does include that word.

Q. So do you know whether the criteria

11 provided to Rawlings included any time

12 parameters for the -- the not-for-cancer

13 prescription?

14 A. That would have been a decision by

15 counsel and the experts. I don't have that

16 information.

17 Q. And as the designee on the

18 criteria, you don't have any information about

19 whether there was some time window within which

20 a patient had to have been free of a -- a

21 diagnosis of cancer?

MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.

Q. Is that right?

A. That's right.

25 Q. Do you know whether Rawlings had

Page 318 1 identify the prescriptions on this list?

2 A. No. The three criteria were based

3 on the public health consensus that these were 4 a combination of factors that would result in

5 improper use of prescription.

6 Q. Did Summit consider any other 7 criteria in providing its list to the -- to the 8 Defendants?

9 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.

10 A. I do not know the conversation 11 between the attorneys and Rawlings.

12 Q. Did Summit evaluate whether the

13 prescriptions were dis -- where the

14 prescriptions were dispensed? Was that a

15 factor that was considered?

16 A. Say that again. Did Summit --

17 Q. Did Summit consider where the

18 prescriptions were dispensed as a criteria?

19 For example, whether they were dispensed in an

20 inpatient facility --

21 A. Oh, I see --

Q. -- or at a -- or at a pharmacy?

A. I see what you're saying.

I don't know. I don't know the

25 answer to that question.

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24

1

1 available to it any source information, patient

2 files or anything such as that, to confirm that

3 there was no recent diagnosis of cancer?

4 A. I do not know what Rawlings used to 5 produce these reports other than their

6 contracts with the insurance agencies we've

7 discussed.

8 Q. And it's your understanding that

9 the Plaintiffs, through counsel, provided the

10 three criteria to Rawlings to apply?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. To generate the list of

13 prescriptions?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. No other criteria were applied?

16 A. None that I'm aware of.

17 Q. Did you, in reviewing your

18 information to prepare to testify on those

19 criteria -- today is my day to ask you about

20 that and today is the day for Defendants to

21 understand what criteria were applied to

22 generate these lists --

A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- did anything in the materials

25 that you reviewed include any other criteria to

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Q. Do you know whether -- strike that.

2 Did Summit consider whether -- in

3 evaluating the dosing parameters, whether the

4 dosing was a stable dosing or whether it was a

5 tapered dosing?

6 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. Asked and

7 answered. Calls for speculation.

8 A. We looked at the CDC statement on

9 90 milligrams being sort of the threshold where

10 folks move into more likelihood for dependence

11 and addiction.

12 O. So Summit didn't look at the

13 prescription, for example, of 120 and compare

14 it to any earlier prescription to determine

15 whether that patient was being held stable at

16 that or whether they were coming down from 150;

17 is that right?

19

MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.

A. We didn't look at any one person.

20 We looked at the fact that we had 39 million

21 pills in 2012 and said, "This is a crisis."

There wasn't any one person or

23 prescription that we identified as, "This is

24 the reason for the case." It's every single

25 person in the 500 and in the 720, plus the

Page 322 1 thousands of people who died that brought us to 2 the conclusion that this needed to happen.

It was the request of defense 4 counsel, is my understanding, that data be

5 produced. The criterion was determined,

6 general health consensus, and beyond that, 7 those decisions were made by counsel and the

8 experts they've employed.

Q. And -- and today you are here to 10 testify about those criteria, and what I'm 11 trying to understand is how those criteria were

12 applied by Plaintiffs in identifying the

13 prescriptions?

14 MS. KEARSE: And, Counsel, I'll say 15 she -- the witness has given you the criteria.

16 So you -- you keep asking her about the

17 criteria, and Ms. Johnson has testified about

18 the criteria used. So if you want to ask -- I

19 mean, at some point you're going to be asking

20 the same question for another hour, but -- and 21 I don't know if that's appropriate or not, but

22 we'll see how it goes.

23 MS. FEINSTEIN: Thank you, Counsel.

24 Q. What I'm trying to understand is

25 how those criteria, then, are applied. And my

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1 The witness testified that Plaintiffs provided

2 certain criteria to generate a list of

3 prescriptions. Is the list of prescriptions

4 that was provided to the Defendants everything 5 that Rawlings provided in response to those

6 criteria?

7 MS. KEARSE: But, Counsel, I'm

8 saying that is outside the scope that -- she's

9 testified on what was provided to Defendants

10 from the answers to the interrogatories, not

11 what else is -- I don't even know if there's

12 anything else out there, but I'm just saying

13 that's not -- I don't think -- I think that's 14 beyond the scope of what she is to testify

15 about as to what was provided.

16 MS. FEINSTEIN: Counsel, your scope 17 objection is noted, and I'd like an answer to

18 my question from the witness, please.

19 A. I don't know if Rawlings provided

20 anything else. My assumption is that --21

MS. KEARSE: I think -- I'm going

22 to advise, counsel not to assume anything. If

23 you -- we're not guessing.

Q. The source of information from 25 Rawlings were in insurance companies,

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1 question was --

MS. KEARSE: But -- but the witness

3 is here to testify about the criteria, and

4 she's given you the criteria, and I think that

5 is the scope of her testimony on that. Q. My question was, in applying those 7 criteria, did Summit County look at whether the

8 dosing number was a stable dosing number for

9 any individual identified in the list?

10 A. I -- I do not know the answer to 11 that.

12 Q. Did Rawlings providing -- strike 13 that.

14 Did the Plaintiffs provide to the

15 Defendants all of the information that Rawlings

16 provided to it with respect to the

17 prescriptions identified?

18 MS. KEARSE: Counsel, I think we're 19 going beyond the scope when we read -- it's the

20 criteria that Plaintiffs used to identify the

21 information that we provided in the

22 interrogatories. So we're talking about the 23 information that was provided.

MS. FEINSTEIN: And my question is, 25 did Rawlings provide any other information.

2

Page 325 1 CareSource and Medical Mutual of Ohio, right?

A. That's my understanding.

3 Q. Do you know whether the 4 prescriptions identified in the materials

5 provided by Plaintiffs were reimbursed? MS. KEARSE: Objection. Outside

7 the scope.

8 Q. Were they covered by insurance?

9 A. Oh, I don't know the answer to 10 that.

Q. Do you know whether Medical Mutual 12 of Ohio or CareSource rejected payment for any 13 of the prescriptions identified in the exhibit?

14 MS. KEARSE: Objection. Outside of 15 the scope.

A. I -- is that information included 17 in here? Can it be gleaned from here? I mean,

18 I can look, but I don't know, as I sit here

19 today, if that information was a part of that. 20 Q. Do you know whether, in applying

21 the criteria, whether Rawlings utilized any

22 information provided by Plaintiffs, or did

23 Rawlings use its own data? 24 MS. KEARSE: Objection. Outside 25 the scope.

Page 326 Page 328 1 A. I do not know Rawlings' 1 reviewed these documents very specifically, I 2 methodology. All I know is the criterion were 2 don't know if there is any diagnosis included. 3 provided to Rawlings to create these 3 I can't imagine that there would be. 4 spreadsheets at the order of the Court. 4 So these are folks who have not 5 been diagnosed with cancer. Beyond that, I 5 Q. Did Rawlings have any input in 6 determining the criteria? 6 mean, quite frankly, even to a layperson, MS. KEARSE: Object. Outside the 7 someone who has been diagnosed with opioid 7 8 scope. 8 dependency perhaps should not continue to be A. No, that -- those decisions were 9 prescribed certainly at a level of 120 MME or 10 made because it -- that's the public health 10 higher. So, you know --11 consensus, and with counsel and the experts Q. Is it Summit's contention that 12 from the case made that determination. 12 every prescription included in the list of --13 Q. Turning back to Exhibit 11, which 13 that meets the criteria no cancer diagnosis, 14 is the Plaintiffs' response to Interrogatory 14 120 MME, and opioid use disorder, that all of 15 No. 6, if you could please turn to page 5. 15 those are improper prescriptions? The second full paragraph, it 16 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 17 17 reads, "Subject to and without waiving the A. Summit County contends that these 18 foregoing objections and limitations, 18 are identified in response to the request of 19 Bellwether Plaintiffs contend that all 19 defense counsel and that certainly if we take 20 prescriptions of opioids for chronic pain in 20 away two out of the three and we just say these 21 the bellwether jurisdictions were written in 21 people have opiate abuse disorder, Summit 22 reliance on misrepresentations, omissions, and 22 County's position would be that alone would red 23 wrongdoing alleged in their Complaint." 23 flag them to us that they should have been 24 Did I read that correctly? 24 looked at. 25 25 You did. Do you know whether Rawlings used Page 327 Page 329 Q. In identifying the prescriptions 1 any source information, patient files or 1 2 that were provided to the Defendants in 2 anything, such as that to confirm that the list 3 includes those with opioid use disorder? 3 response to these interrogatories, is it 4 4 Plaintiff's contention that those prescriptions MS. KEARSE: Objection. Asked and 5 5 were for chronic pain? answered. A. That all of these prescriptions 6 A. I don't know what methodology 7 Rawlings used. 7 were for chronic pain --Q. Yes. 8 8 Q. Still within Exhibit 11, I'd like 9 to direct your attention back to page 14, 9 A. -- in these exhibits?

10 I -- I don't know, again, what they 11 were for. I know they were not for cancer 12 treatment. O. What does the "not for cancer 13 14 treatment" criteria mean? 15 A. Exactly what it states, that these 16 were not people who were diagnosed with cancer. 17 Q. So this list of prescriptions could 18 have appropriate prescriptions included that 19 are for other reasons, not cancer, but because 20 it didn't meet the cancer criteria, it's 21 included on that list; is that correct? 22 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 23 Outside the scope, as well. A. I -- I don't know that I could 25 answer that, other than to say, without having

10 please. 11 The very last part of that page, 12 it's the last partial paragraph that bleeds 13 over into the next page, there is, near the 14 end -- near the end of that partial paragraph, 15 about three lines down, over to the right, do 16 you see, "Based upon a review"? 17 A. I do. 18 Q. Do you see where I am? 19 20 Q. It reads, "Based upon a review of 21 relative call notes, Bellwether Plaintiffs 22 contend that Manufacturer Defendants 23 systematically omitted or misrepresented the 24 risk of addiction, failed to accurately 25 disclose the risk of addiction, provided false

83 (Pages 326 - 329)

1 assurance that addiction is rare among patients

- 2 taking opioids for pain," and it continues, 3 "and/or can be identified or managed, and
- 4 failed to disclose the risk of addiction
- 5 increase with longer duration of opioid use or
- 6 higher doses," and then it continues.
- 7 Did I read that correctly?
- 8 A. Yes.
- Q. Did the Plaintiffs, did Summit
- 10 County review call notes in determining the
- 11 criteria applied to the list of prescriptions?
- 12 MS. KEARSE: Objection. Outside 13 the scope.
- 14 A. I know that call notes have been
- 15 produced as a part of discovery. The decision
- 16 for setting the criterion was left to the
- 17 attorneys and the experts.
- Q. So you don't know whether any
- 19 specific call notes were reviewed to set those
- 20 criteria for this list?
- 21 A. I do not know that.
- 22 Q. Turning your attention now to what
- 23 we have marked as Exhibit 10. Exhibit 10 is
- 24 one of the documents that you took a look at in
- 25 preparation for today's deposition, right?

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- A. I need to look again.
- 2 Q. Yes, please, feel free.
- 3 MS. KEARSE: Take your time.
- 4 A. Yes.

1

- 5 O. This document includes the
- 6 Plaintiffs's responses to Manufacturer
- 7 Interrogatory No. 7 and No. 10, right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- Q. Directing your attention to the --
- 10 the fourth page. The pages are not numbered --
- 12 Q. -- but you see Manufacturer
- 13 Interrogatory No. 7 at the top?
- A. I do. 14
- 15 Q. In the answer, the second sentence
- 16 in the response reads, "Each individual has a
- 17 diagnosis of opioid use disorder and therefore
- 18 has suffered and/or continues to suffer
- 19 significant harm."
- 20 Do you see that?
- 21 A. I do.
- 22 Q. Did I read that correctly?
- 23
- 24 Q. Do you know what criteria were used
- 25 to determine that a patient had opioid use

1 disorder?

- 2 A. By Rawlings?
- 3 Q. Yes.
- A. I do not know Rawlings'
- 5 methodology.
- Q. And similarly, then, you don't know
- 7 what source documents they may have looked at
- 8 to confirm that?
- 9 A. I do not.
- 10 Q. Does Summit County contend that
- 11 each of the individuals who had an opioid use
- 12 disorder and received a prescription for a
- 13 prescription opioid, that that prescription was
- 14 improper?
- 15 MS. FLOWERS: Object to the form.
- 16 MS. KEARSE: Objection. Outside of 17 the scope, as well.
- 18 A. I don't know that that is the legal
- 19 contention being made, but certainly as we sit
- 20 here, as I sit here today on behalf of the
- 21 County, it would seem to me that every person
- 22 with a diagnosed opioid disorder still
- 23 receiving over 120 morphine equivalent
- 24 milligrams, that was a problem. Certainly was
- 25 a problem.

- Q. Does Summit County contend that 2 those individuals identified in the list of
- 3 prescriptions with an opioid use disorder
- 4 developed that disorder as a result of some
- 5 wrongdoing by the Defendants?
- A. The marketing was so pervasive, and
- 7 the availability was so readily procured that
- 8 it absolutely had an impact on this. The --
- 9 the false narrative that this was a safe way to
- 10 treat things like chronic pain or injury from
- 11 sports or injury from a work accident, that was
- 12 pervasive in this community, and it was
- 13 inaccurate. So it absolutely impacted it.
- Q. Did Summit County do anything to
- 15 rule out other possible causes for the opioid
- 16 use disorder, aside from Defendants' conduct?
- 17 A. I'm sorry. Did we -- did Ra- -- I
- 18 don't understand your question.
- MS. KEARSE: I think we changed 19 20 gears, right?
- 21 Q. Did Summit County do anything to
- 22 rule out any other cause for the opioid use
- 23 disorder, aside from the alleged wrongdoing of
- 24 the Defendants?
- 25 As far as getting these lists?

Q. As far as the -- the wrongdoing

- 2 that you just testified about that led to
- 3 opioid use disorder, did Summit County do
- 4 anything to rule out any other causes of that
- 5 opioid use disorder?
- A. There are no other causes to opioid
- 7 use disorder, other than the pervasive
- 8 availability of opioids in our community. I
- 9 don't know if you're asking specifically about
- 10 these folks, but there is one root cause for
- 11 why we are here today, and it is 40 million
- 12 pills in my community in one year.
- 13 Q. So it's your testimony that anyone
- 14 with opioid use disorder developed that
- 15 disorder because of some wrongdoing by the
- 16 Defendants; is that right?
- 17 A. I think when the Defendants
- 18 knowingly misrepresented what these pills were
- 19 going to cause and what this would lead to,
- 20 that even an appropriately prescribed person,
- 21 meaning a doctor relying on that information
- 22 wants to treat the person in front of him, I --
- 23 I absolutely believe that the wrongdoing of the
- 24 Defendants is part of every piece of the
- 25 addiction process.

1 "Answer."

8

14

- 2 A. Got it.
- 3 Q. Are you there?
- Yes.
- 5 Q. And feel free to read that
- 6 sentence. I won't --
- 7 A. Okay.
  - Q. -- read it into the record.
- 9 The second sentence of the
- 10 paragraph?
- 11 Q. Yeah. The -- actually, the very
- 12 last sentence of the paragraph.
- 13 A. Okay. Oh, okay. I see it, yes.
  - Q. If I could now direct your
- 15 attention to what we've marked as Exhibit 17.
- 16
- Q. Do you understand Exhibit 17 to be 17
- 18 the Exhibit B that's referenced in Exhibit 10?
- 19 A. I do.
- 20 Q. Do you know what criteria Summit
- 21 County used to identify the individuals listed
- 22 in Exhibit B?
- A. I know that these came from our
- 24 medical examiner's office, and something either
- 25 in the toxicology report for the decedent or
- Page 335
- Q. Directing your attention back to
- 2 Exhibit 10, that same paragraph that we were 3 just in.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. The next sentence reads, "In
- 6 addition, Exhibit B identifies certain
- 7 individuals in the bellwether jurisdictions who
- 8 died from overdoses as a result of the use of 9 prescription opioids."
- 10
- A. I think I'm on the wrong page. I'm 11 sorry.
- 12 Q. Sure, yeah. Yeah, let's get --
- 13 it's -- we're in Exhibit 10.
- A. Yes. Page 4?
- 15 Q. Page 4. They aren't numbered.
- 16 Yes, okay.
- 17 O. So at the top it says
- 18 Manufacturer --
- 19 A. Interrogatory, yes.
- Q. -- Interrogatory No. 7. Then I'm 20
- 21 in the "Answer" section.
- 22 A. Okay. Exhibit B identifies.
- Q. Yeah. 23
- 24 A. Got it.
- 25 The first full paragraph under

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- 1 something else within the autopsy would have 2 led Dr. Kohler to create this list.
- Q. Do you know what criteria
- 4 Dr. Kohler, or whoever participated in the
- 5 preparation of Exhibit B, applied to determine
- 6 whether the individuals purportedly died of an
- 7 overdose of prescription opioids?
- A. I -- I believe that, again, it
- 9 was -- it was reflected in the toxicology
- 10 screen or something in the history included in
- 11 the autopsy, that these -- this list is
- 12 reflective of prescription opioids.
- Q. Do you know whether that list is
- 14 overdoses of prescription opioids?
- 15 A. It's listed as overdose deaths.
- 16 yes.
- Q. Do you know whether the medical 17
- 18 examiner and anyone who assisted in the
- preparation of Exhibit B is able to identify
- 20 which prescription opioids are associated with
- 21 the overdose deaths listed?
- 22 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 23 A. I mean, unless there was a pill
- 24 bottle next to the person, and certainly
- 25 however long the person had been deceased

Page 338 1 before blood and urine samples were taken, that 2 can -- that can impact the levels that are 3 returned in the toxicology screen, and -- and 4 many of these prescription pills they tend to 5 metabolize. You end up with morphine 5 interrogatories? 6 equivalent. 6 7 And so I would think that the only 8 way to do that was if there was a known 9 history, a prescription pill bottle at the 10 scene, something like that. But certainly the 11 toxicologist who was deposed spoke to that sort 11 12 of, you know, more fluently than I can. Q. Do you know whether Exhibit 17, 14 which is Exhibit B to Interrogatory No. 7 -- a 15 lot of exhibit references -- do you know 15 16 whether that listing includes only prescription 17 overdose deaths of prescription opioids 18 manufactured by Defendants in this case, as 19 opposed to other manufacturers of prescription 20 opioids? 20 that list? 21 21 A. I do not know the answer to that. 22 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Excuse me, 22 23 Ms. Johnson. 24 THE WITNESS: Yes. 25 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Could you slide Page 339 1 your microphone up for me? THE WITNESS: Oh, gosh, yes, sorry. 3 MS. FEINSTEIN: You okay? 4 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I think I keep 5 stepping on. Q. Staying within Exhibit 10, I'd like 7 to direct your attention now to page 5 or the 8 response to Manufacturer Interrogatory No. 10. Have you reviewed this response to 10 Manufacturer Interrogatory No. 10 before?

Page 340 Q. Do you know whether the physicians 2 listed in response to Interrogatory No. 10 are 3 the prescribers of the prescriptions that were 4 identified by the Plaintiffs in response to the A. I can see some of their names on 7 the front page, so I -- I know that they are 8 included in these, in these Exhibits 12 9 through -- 12, 13, 15 and 16. I can see a few 10 of the names at least. Q. Do you know whether a prescription 12 being written by one of these prescribers was 13 an additional criteria applied by Rawlings to 14 generate the list of prescriptions? A. It's my understanding that these 16 lists were created based on the three criterion 17 given to them by our counsel. Q. So it -- it is just coincidental 19 that some of these prescribers are included in MS. FLOWERS: Object to form. A. Well, I mean, these are -- I don't 23 know that coincidental is really the word. 24 These doctors were clearly either convicted of 25 crimes or held responsible for improper

1 prescribing, so it certainly is no surprise

2 that they would be in these lists.

Q. Do you have any information about 4 whether any of the prescriptions written by 5 these physicians who were prosecuted or

6 disciplined were prescribed based on any action

7 of any of the Defendants in this case?

A. Well, we know that calls were still 9 being made to these doctors even after 10 suspected improper prescriptions were being 11 written, so certainly the manufacturers were 12 sending folks out to call upon these doctors, 13 even in some instances when these -- the reps 14 had indicated that there may have been a 15 problem, so --

16 Q. And do you -- sorry.

17 A. -- so the manufacturers were still 18 certainly contacting and the prescriptions were 19 obviously still being filled.

20 Q. Do you know whether any of the 21 prescriptions written by any of the individuals 22 listed in the answer to Interrogatory No. 10 23 were written as a result of information 24 provided by any manufacturer to those

25 physicians?

86 (Pages 338 - 341)

12

15

16

20

21

25

24 right?

A. Yes.

19 knowledge; is that right?

A. Yes, correct.

That's right.

Yes, I've read this.

Q. The individuals listed are

18 or disciplined doctors, to the Plaintiff's

17 identified in the response as those prosecuted

Q. So it's your understanding that 22 each of these individuals listed here was

23 prosecuted or otherwise disciplined; is that

The individuals identified in the 13 answer, is it your understanding that those are

14 physicians who prescribed prescription opioids?

1 MS. KEARSE: Objection. Outside 2 the scope. A. Any information provided to them? 3 Q. Uh-huh. Yeah, you just mentioned 5 that you know, from information that you've 6 reviewed --7 A. Yeah. 8 Q. -- that some of these physicians 9 continued to be visited --10 A. Right. Q. -- by representatives of the

11

12 manufacturers. Were any of their prescriptions 13 written in reliance on information provided to

14 them by those representatives?

15 MS. KEARSE: And I'll let you 16 answer, but I think we're way out of the scope 17 of what -- if we're still on the criteria, this

18 is way out of the scope of what Ms. Johnson is

19 here to testify about, the criteria that was

20 used to generate the exhibits in front of her. 21 A. I -- I can't -- I -- I don't know

22 how to answer that question on -- on what

23 information the doctors relied, but I'm -- what

24 I will say is that many of the patients who

25 were going to these doctors certainly started

Page 342 1

2

11

O. Let me re-ask it. A. Okay.

3 Q. That was an awkward question. 4 Is it your understanding that the

Page 344

5 prescriptions that were identified by the

6 Plaintiffs are responsive to all three of the

7 interrogatories that we just discussed, so

8 Interrogatory No. 6, Interrogatory No. 7, and

9 Interrogatory No. 10?

10 A. That's my understanding.

Q. Do you have any understanding of

12 whether there are any prescriptions in those

13 identified that do not apply to all three and

14 that only apply to either one, two, or three of 15 those interrogatories?

A. If I could review the 16

17 interrogatories so that I could be clear on

18 that. I --

19 Q. And you have the interrogatories in 20 front of you.

21 A. Okay.

22 So Exhibit 10 and Exhibit 11 --

23 A. Eleven.

24 Q. -- have the interrogatories.

25 Oh, there it is. Okay. So your

1 out taking opioids based on their reliance on

2 information from the manufacturers that these

3 would not be habit forming and that they would 4 not become addicted.

O. Did the Plaintiffs' criteria in

6 identifying these doctors in response to

7 Interrogatory No. 10, did it include speaking

8 with any of these physicians?

MS. KEARSE: Objection. Asked and

10 answered. I think the witness has testified 11 it's a criteria used for Topics 4, 5, 6, and

12 19, and you're going out of the scope and

13 asking additional questions that just have no

14 bearing on her testimony today as a 30(b)

15 representative.

A. I -- I do not know if -- I know

17 that they spoke to some doctors. I do not know

18 if the list included the doctors who have been

19 convicted.

20 Q. Do you know whether any of the

21 listed prescriptions that were provided to the 22 Defendants were responsive to only one of the

23 interrogatories, as opposed to all three of the

24 interrogatories? Strike that.

25 A. I don't follow that.

Page 345 1 question is, are these responsive to all three

2 at the same time?

3 Q. Yeah -- yes. So is that list, does

4 that -- does the list of prescriptions provided 5 by the Plaintiffs respond to Interrogatory

6 No. 6, Interrogatory No. 7, and Interrogatory

7 No. 10?

8 A. Okay.

MS. KEARSE: And again, Counsel, I

10 think she's -- Ms. Johnson has testified to the 11 criteria used in Exhibits A and B, Exhibits 12

12 through 16 already. This is getting to be to

13 the point of way outside the scope.

MS. FEINSTEIN: You'll be glad to 14

15 know it's my last question. I just want to

16 understand --

17 MS. KEARSE: Okay. And then we 18 keep going.

MS. FEINSTEIN: -- if that list

20 applies to all these. On this. Not my last 21 question all day.

THE WITNESS: So this is six.

22 23 A. Based on reviewing the

24 interrogatories again, Exhibits 12 through 16

25 respond to all three individually and as a

Page 346 Page 348 1 whole. 1 know. Mine's double sided. I don't know if Q. Thank you. You're also designated, 2 that --3 MS. KEARSE: And I wasn't 3 thankfully, on some other topics, right? 4 suggesting you were -- I just wanted to -- I 4 A. I mean... 5 wanted to make sure we were reading off the 5 Q. We can continue talking about those 6 lists, if you'd like, but --6 same one. 7 A. Thankfully is your word. 7 MS. FEINSTEIN: Absolutely. And I 8 Q. -- I'm ready to move on. 8 want to make sure that the witness is A. Okay. Let's do this. Yes. comfortable responding to the questions. THE WITNESS: Could I ask someone 10 Q. Feel free to move those out of your 10 11 way if you'd like. 11 to get more water --A. Yeah. 12 MS. KEARSE: Yeah. 12 13 Q. You were also designated on Topic 3 13 THE WITNESS: -- if there's any 14 in the 30(b)(6) notice; is that right? 14 more over there. 15 A. Correct. 15 MS. KEARSE: I don't know. Q. Are you okay to continue? 16 Q. And that topic is Plaintiffs' 16 17 knowledge of concerns or complaints made to the 17 A. Yeah, I just --Q. Okay. You just need some more --18 Plaintiffs or by the Plaintiffs of any 18 A. I -- apparently I'll stop breathing 19 19 promotion, marketing, educational activities 20 with respect to prescription opioids, within or 20 if I stop drinking water today. 21 relating to the Plaintiffs' geographic area and 21 Q. Thanks. If you need to take a 22 actions taken by the Plaintiff or others in 22 break ---23 A. Sure. No, I --23 response to those concerns or complaints. 24 O. -- let me know. 24 Are you prepared to testify on that 25 But if you could please, then, 25 topic? Page 347 1 A. I am. 1 referring to Exhibit 1, take a look at Topic 2 Q. What did you do to prepare --2 No. 3 --A. Yes, ma'am. 3 MS. KEARSE: Counsel, I just want 3 4 to make sure that's reading number three. I Q. -- and let me know whether you are 5 thought three was changed. 5 prepared to testify on behalf of Summit County MS. FEINSTEIN: Oh, sure. If it 6 as to that topic as modified by Special Master 7 was, yeah, feel free. I thought I was reading 7 Cohen and hopefully as read correctly by me in 8 Special Master Cohen --8 the record a moment ago. 9 MS. KEARSE: Are you reading A. Yes, I am. 10 Exhibit 3? Okay. 10 Q. Did you talk to the anybody to --MS. FEINSTEIN: I wasn't reading 11 besides counsel to prepare for your testimony 12 from it. I was reading what should have been 12 in response to that topic? A. I -- I talked with, you know, the 13 typed from it. 13 14 14 individuals that I listed before about a MS. KEARSE: Okay. 15 MS. FEINSTEIN: But, yeah, I 15 variety of different topics, but frankly the 16 people I've talked to about this particular 16 think -- so I don't want to --17 MS. KEARSE: Okay. So I just 17 interrogatory have come throughout the last 15 18 wanted to make sure you were reading --18 years of being in the community and in the jobs 19 19 that I've served. MS. FEINSTEIN: Yeah. 20 20 MS. KEARSE: -- off of Exhibit B. So I spoke with Detective Leonard 21 MS. FEINSTEIN: Yes. 21 about it a little bit, and obviously with 22 Q. And feel free, Ms. Johnson, if 22 counsel. But certainly the conversations that 23 you'd like to look at Exhibit 1 --23 I've had outside of the preparation or outside 24 A. Yep. 24 specific preparation for today, inform my 25 Q. -- it is the second to last page, I 25 answers on this as well.

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1 Q. Just to make sure I'm

- 2 understanding, too, so for purposes of your
- 3 testimony on behalf of Summit County as its
- 4 designee on this topic, did you speak with
- 5 anyone else within Summit County just for
- 6 preparation for this topic specifically?
- 7 A. I did. I spoke with the executive 8 about it and asked for her input as well, and I
- 9 spoke with the public safety director, Lori
- 10 Pesci, about that.
- 11 Q. When did Summit County first have
- 12 concerns or complaints about the promotion of
- 13 prescription opioids?
- 14 A. I would say that Summit County
- 15 first became aware of the pharmaceutical
- 16 industry's role in our growing epidemic toward
- 17 the end of 2014 and into 2015 when the Opiate
- 18 Task Force came together, and started to put
- 19 the numbers in front of all of us about just
- 20 how many pills per capita were being
- 21 distributed in our community.
- Q. My question is a little bit
- 23 different than that.
- 24 A. Okay.
- Q. So my question is, when did Summit

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1 pharmaceutical industry was being honest, was

- 2 not going to put pills into our community at
- 3 this rate that could harm the people who live
- 4 here.
- 5 Q. Is there any specific promotion
- 6 that you learned of that -- strike that.
- 7 Is there any specific promotion
- 8 that Summit County learned of in 2014-2015 that
- 9 caused it concern at that time?
- 10 A. The conversations in those task
- 11 force meetings centered around, quite frankly,
- 12 the pleas from parents who witnessed it
- 13 firsthand, that their child had become addicted
- 14 after being told that this was a safe and
- 15 effective way to treat pain.
- 16 And I've said it several times
- 17 because it's true: The people who pointed us
- 18 in the direction of the pharmaceutical
- 19 manufacturing and distributing industry were
- 20 the family members of people who are suffering
- 21 from addiction.
- 22 Q. And my question is about promotion.
- 23 A. Right.
- Q. So what -- is there any specific
- 25 promotion that Summit County learned of in 2014

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- 1 County first have concerns or complaints about
- 2 the promotion of prescription opioids?
- 3 A. So same -- same answer.
- 4 MS. KEARSE: I'm going object.
- 5 Asked and an- -- I was going to say asked and 6 answered, yes.
- A. Same answer. Because that -- it
- 8 was in those Opiate Task Force meetings where
- 9 the conversation first started with, we all
- 10 have one thing in common here, and it's the
- 11 pharmaceutical industry. So -- so it was
- 12 really in those early 2015, throughout 2015
- 13 where, I mean, quite frankly we started looking
- 14 at who was to blame.
- 15 Q. So it's your testimony that Summit
- 16 County had no concerns about opioid
- 17 manufacturers' promotion of prescription
- 18 opioids at any point in time prior to 2014 or
- 19 2015; is that right?
- A. No concern?
- 21 O. Uh-huh.
- A. There was not an alarming concern
- 23 at that time. I think Summit County, its
- 24 residents, its officials were still operating
- 25 under this dangerous belief that the

- 1 or 2015 that it viewed as improper?
- 2 A. There's no specific promotion, but
- 3 the pervasive nature of the messaging coming
- 4 from the manufacturers blanketed the community.
- 5 O. You've reviewed the complaint filed
- 6 on behalf of Summit County and the City of
- 7 Akron in this litigation, right?
- 8 A. I have.
- 9 Q. You're aware that that complaint
- 10 includes allegations regarding activities
- 11 engaged in by the Manufacturing Defendants
- 12 related to the promotion of prescription
- 13 opioids dating back into the 2000s; is that
- 14 right?
- 15 A. Correct, yes.
- 16 Q. Was Summit County aware of that
- 17 promotion of prescription opioids in 2007-2008
- 18 time period?
- 19 A. I'm sure we were aware of it. We
- 20 did not know the harmful effects it would have
- 21 at that point. I don't know that -- those
- 22 promotional materials were available in, I
- 23 believe you said 2007. I don't know that
- 24 Summit County -- in fact I know that Summit 25 County didn't know how harmful and the danger

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1 that we would incur as a result of those at 2 that time.

- Q. Do you know whether the State of
- 4 Ohio had identified any concerns with
- 5 pharmaceutical manufacturers' promotion of
- 6 prescription opioids in 2010?
- 7 A. I -- I know now that there was a
- 8 governor's task force that convened and issued
- 9 a report in October of 2010, but that didn't
- 10 reach Summit County. The people I've spoken to
- 11 in Summit County had not seen that.
- 12 And there are a number of reasons
- 13 why, not the least of which is that was a very
- 14 brief period of time when the governor and
- 15 house of representatives were both Democratic,
- 16 and about 35 days after that report was issued,
- 17 there was a dramatic shift in Ohio politics and
- 18 a Republican governor was elected and the
- 19 Republican contingency took over control of the
- 20 Statehouse, and there was a dramatic shift in
- 21 ideology and priorities at that time.
- So the 2010 report became obsolete,
- 23 in effect, about 35 days after it was issued.
- Q. So it's -- it's your testimony that
- 25 Summit County had no concerns or complaints

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1 that. I know that Prosecutor Gessner, who was

- 1 that. I know that I fosecutor dessiler, who wa
- 2 deposed, was not familiar with that. I've
- 3 asked -- I asked Detective Leonard if he was
- 4 familiar with it. I asked -- I don't -- I
- 5 can't recall if Donna Skoda was familiar with 6 it.
- 7 Q. Did you talk with Dr. Smith about 8 it?
- 9 A. I did not. I did not have a
- 10 conversation with Dr. Smith to prepare.
  - 1 Q. Do you know if Dr. Smith or others
- 12 who are active at the ADM Board and with --
- 13 within the Summit County Opiate Task Force,
- 14 whether or not they had information regarding
- 15 that report prior to 2014-2015?
  - A. I don't know if they did or not.
- 17 Q. You reviewed Dr. Smith's
- 18 transcript, right?
- 19 A. I did.

16

- Q. Do you recall seeing any testimony
- 21 from Dr. Smith that he was aware of at least
- 22 concerns with pharmaceutical manufacturers'
- 23 promotion of opioids prior to the formation of
- 24 the Opiate Task Force?
- A. Yes. I recall that we had

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- 1 about any manufacturer promotion or marketing
- 2 or educational activities related to
- 3 prescription opioids prior to 2014; is that
- 4 right?
- 5 A. I think that's fair.
- 6 Q. And it was the information that
- 7 Summit County learned through the opioid task
- 8 force that it formed in 2014 that allowed it to
- 9 make that connection between its allegations
- 10 related to promotional activities of the
- 11 pharmaceutical manufacturers to the opioid
- 12 issues within Summit County; is that right?
- 13 A. Absolutely. There were specific
- 14 meetings where you could feel the ripple effect
- 15 of realization in the room.
- 16 Q. And it's further your testimony
- 17 that Summit County had no knowledge of the
- 18 governor's task force report that identified
- 19 several criteria --
- 20 A. Sure.
- 21 Q. -- including, among them, promotion
- 22 of prescription opioids as a potential factor
- 23 in opioid misuse?
- A. I was a prosecutor when that came
- 25 out. I did not -- I was not familiar with

Page 357 1 concerns. I believe his testimony also talked

- 2 about the direct marketing to patients, in
- 3 addition to the marketing materials provided to
- 4 doctors. So I believe that there was an
- 5 acknowledgement that they were aware that --
- 6 that there was an issue.
- 7 Q. Do you recall his testimony that he
- 8 could not remember any direct-to-consumer or
- 9 direct-to-patient marketing regarding
- 10 prescription opioids?
- 11 A. I -- I remember him talking about
- 12 it. I thought it was the opposite. I could be
- 13 mistaken.
- 14 Q. Have you seen any direct-to-
- 15 consumer marketing related to opioids?
- 16 A. I can't say that recently I can
- 17 recall anything like that.
- Q. Do you have any information about
- 19 any specific promotion of opioids within Summit
- 20 County that caused Summit County any concerns,
- 21 whether you learned of it in 2014 or otherwise?
- 22 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- A. Could you say that again?
- Q. Sure. Yeah, it was a little
- 25 confusing.

Page 358 Page 360 1 Do you have any information about 1 her scope. 2 any promotion of prescription opioids that Q. And I'm asking about marketing. 3 occurred within Summit County that raised a red 3 You don't have any information about whether 4 the marketing or promotion of prescription 4 flag for Summit County and caused Summit County 5 opioids is regulated at all by the FDA? 5 concern? MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 6 MS. KEARSE: The same objection. 7 7 A. Just what we've talked about A. I don't know if the FDA regulates 8 those. 8 when -- when we came together and looked at 9 the -- the number of pills being prescribed in 9 Q. Is it Summit's position that it --10 our community, those don't get prescribed by 10 strike that. 11 accident. They don't get prescribed without When did Summit County first learn 12 of educational activities engaged in by 12 active promotion and marketing to consumers and 13 to the physicians in our area. 40 million 13 manufacturers of prescription opioids that 14 pills don't happen by accident of the industry. 14 caused it concern? 15 A. I don't think I follow your 15 Q. Where is the 40 million pills 16 question. Educational activities that the 16 number from? A. So in 2010, there were 71.6 pills 17 manufacturers were putting on? 18 per every man, woman, and child in Summit 18 Q. Yes. 19 A. Oh, for doctors? 19 County. 20 In 2012, it was 72.8, I believe. 20 Q. Regarding prescription opioids, 21 uh-huh. 21 And when you multiply that by the 22 over 451,000 -- 541,000 residents in Summit 22 A. I don't know the answer to that 23 question. 23 County, you get upwards of 40 million pills. Q. And from where do you get the data 24 Q. Do you draw a distinction between 25 the term promotion and marketing? 25 71.6 and 72.8? Page 359 Page 361 1 A. Sure. That's the OARRS data that's A. Marketing is -- the distinction I 2 compiled by the Summit County Public Health. 2 draw between promotion and marketing is 3 That's on their data dashboard. 3 marketing is the -- the tangibles, whether it's 4 paper or advertisements. Sort of the Q. You understand that prescription 5 opioids are regulated by the Food and Drug 5 in-passive parts. 6 Administration, right? Promotion, to me, is reps going 7 A. Yes. 7 out, meeting with docs, promoting the effects Q. You also understand that

8 and the efficacy of the medications.

Q. My questions earlier about when 10 Summit County first became concerned, I used 11 the term "promotion," so now I'll ask the

12 same --

13 A. Oh, okay.

14 Q. -- question regarding marketing --

15 A. Sure.

16 Q. -- to see if there's any different 17 response. So the topic includes both terms, so

18 I want to ask about both. When did Summit County first become

20 concerned or receive complaints about the 21 marketing of prescription opioids within Summit

22 County? 23

A. The same answer. When we really --24 I understand that Dr. Smith and some others 25 discussed some early warning signs, perhaps,

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9 prescription opioids are -- are approved by the

A. I do understand there's a process

Q. Do you have any understanding

A. Do I have an understanding of how

Q. Do you have any understanding of

24 was a separate 30(b) specific to FDA that we

25 submitted in writing, so it may be outside of

MS. KEARSE: Counsel, I think there

10 FDA to be available for prescription in the

15 regarding the FDA's role with respect to

17 products that are approved by it?

19 they're involved with marketing?

21 whether they're involved at all?

A. I don't, actually.

16 marketing or promotion of pharmaceutical

11 United States, right?

13 to that, yes.

12

18

20

22

1

2

7

8

13

19

25 do that.

A. I think that's fair.

Q. Did Summit County contact any

3 federal authorities to evaluate whether or not

4 the activities engaged in by the manufacturers

MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

A. We did not reach out to the FDA. I

5 of prescription opioids may have violated

6 any -- any federal laws or regulations?

9 mean, certainly our DEA agents were

10 investigating diversion, but as far as -- as

11 reporting the marketing or promotion, no, this 12 lawsuit is the way we've addressed that.

Q. Did Summit County enact any

17 otherwise engage in promotion or marketing of

A. We don't have the authority to do

14 ordinances or any sort of restrictions on the

15 ability of pharmaceutical manufacturers to

16 either visit physicians within its borders or

20 that. That's a federally regulated practice,

22 level. As a county council and the county

21 and the only other regulations are at the state

23 executive, and certainly in the city of Akron,

24 they don't -- none of us have the authority to

18 prescription opioids?

1 but it was not until the Opiate Task Force

- 2 convening in '14 and '15 that -- that that
- 3 really became a topic of conversation that
- 4 dominated the -- those meetings.
- Q. Did Summit County contact the --6 the pharmaceutical manufacturers and complain
- 7 about their promotional or marketing activities 8 at that point?
- 9 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 10 A. I think we were too busy trying to 11 treat people. I think we were too busy trying
- 12 to find new avenues and bed space for the
- 13 addiction crisis that we were facing. It was 14 not until, again, we -- we sort of put all of
- 15 the ducks in a row and came to the conclusion
- 16 that there was one common factor in all of
- 17 these stories, and that's when our -- our
- 18 attention was directed.

A. I am, yes.

1 Force.

2

- Q. Did Summit County report any
- 20 promotional activities to the FDA?
- 21 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 22 O. You've mentioned a few times
- 23 reference to the task force that began in the
- 24 2014 time period. And by that, are you
- 25 referring to the Summit County Opiate Task

Q. Are you aware of any other task

4 forces that were formed at an earlier time in

- Page 363
  - Page 365 Q. And did Summit County reach out the
    - 2 to any of those entities that would have
    - 3 authority to do so and request limitations
    - 4 within the borders of Summit County on the
    - 5 activity that caused concern to Summit County?
- A. Well, we've discussed the A. I don't know that we specifically
- 7 governor's report that was issued in 2010.

5 other counties or within the state of Ohio?

- 8 Before 2014, we had drug task force within the
- 9 county but beyond the law enforcement
- 10 perspective, I'm not aware of any community.
- Q. Did -- I asked you if Summit County
- 12 reached out to the pharmaceutical manufacturers
- 13 or reached out to the FDA.
- 14 Did Summit County do any kind of
- 15 internal -- strike that.
- Did Summit County institute any
- 17 sort of investigation into the promotional
- 18 activities of the pharmaceutical manufacturers
- 19 to determine whether it was wrongful activity?
- MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 20
- 21 A. I mean, quite frankly, that's why
- 22 we engaged with counsel.
- 23 Q. So this lawsuit is the action that
- 24 Summit County decided to take when it made that
- 25 connection; is that right?

- 7 talked about marketing promotions with our 8 federal representatives. I know that we talked
- 9 about the -- the need for treatment facilities,
- 10 the need for, you know, the continuation of 11 Medicaid expansion, the lifting of the bed
- 12 limit for Medicaid reimbursement. Our focus,
- 13 up and to the point that we filed this lawsuit,
- 14 has been on treating the victims of this
- 15 epidemic.
- 16 Q. Did Summit County reach out to the
- 17 FDA, recognizing Summit County's concern with
- 18 promotional activities of the pharmaceutical
- 19 companies, did Summit County reach out to the
- 20 FDA to request that it somehow limit the
- 21 ability of manufacturers to promote and market
- 22 prescription opioids?
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 24 A. We did not reach out to the FDA.
  - MS. FEINSTEIN: Why don't we take a

23

25

Page 366 Page 368 1 break here. 1 Q. At any time point prior to --2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record 2 strike that. 3 Was it a specific discussion at a 3 at 6:04. 4 task force that flipped the switch for the 4 (A recess was taken.) 5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record at 5 County, that caused it to have concern about 6 pharmaceutical promotion or marketing? 6 6:24. 7 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 7 BY MS. FEINSTEIN: 8 A. There were specific slides. I Q. Thank you. Before the break, we 9 were talking about Summit County's knowledge of 9 remember very vividly being shown slides about 10 concerns related to pharmaceutical promotion 10 the number of pills in our community. And as I 11 and marketing. Do you recall that? 11 said before, there was a collective -- it was 12 almost like you could feel the light bulb. 12 A. I do. 13 Q. If you could take a look, if you'd 13 And that was when I recall 14 like, at Exhibit 1, which is the notice of 14 specifically a parent of a child standing up 15 and using the words "big pharma." I remember 15 deposition that identifies the topics, just 16 because I may bounce around a little bit, I 16 it very vividly. And that was truly one of the 17 first times a real discussion was had in the 17 just want to confirm on the record, the other 18 topics that I'm going to address with you and 18 county about what all of these stories we were 19 discussing in these task force meetings had in 19 for which you have been designated by Summit 20 County to testify about are Topics 9 and 34, as 20 common, and that was the opioid industry. 21 modified by Special Master Cohen's order, which 21 Q. That meeting, there was no 22 discussion specifically about any particular 22 is the second to last page of Exhibit 1. 23 promotion or marketing; is that right? 23 Do you see that? 24 A. There was. There was a parent 24 A. I do. 25 there who talked about doctors telling his 25 Q. If you could please review those Page 369 1 topics and let me know whether you're prepared 1 child, and being a part of that conversation, 2 to testify on behalf of Summit County as to 2 that these were safe and effective. And 3 Topics 9 and 34 as well. 3 certainly, that information funneled down from A. Yes. I've reviewed them, and I 4 the manufacturer through the doctor. 5 feel prepared to testify on behalf of Summit O. How does Summit County know that 5 6 that information funneled down from a source 6 County. 7 Q. Other than what you've described 7 other than the physician's own medical opinion? 8 already regarding your preparation for today's A. It was pervasive. I mean, I -- as 9 deposition, did you do anything in addition to 9 a prosecutor, I had had interactions with 10 prepare specifically for your testimony with 10 individuals who had been robbed of their opioid 11 respect to Topics 9 or 34? 11 pills, who talked about, "This is my long-term A. Not in addition to what we've 12 chronic pain maintenance." And there was an 12 13 already discussed. 13 overwhelming presence of the idea that the Q. You mentioned that Summit County 14 manufacturers said this was okay, and this 15 did not have knowledge or con- -- strike that. 15 inherent trust of our community in the medical You mentioned earlier that Summit 16 field, which includes the pharmaceutical field. 17 County did not have concerns about 17 Q. Do you know whether the 18 pharmaceutical promotion or marketing until 18 prescription opioids that are available for 19 2014; is that right? 19 prescription in the United States have 20 20 prescribing information that comes with them MS. KEARSE: Object to form. A. I -- I would say '14 -- I believe 21 21 that is FDA approved? 22 the Opiate Task force first met at, I want to 22 A. Like the warnings that come --23 say, December of '14. So it was very late '14 23 Yes --O.

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A. -- in the -- I'm sure that they do.

Have you ever read those?

24

25

24 and into '15 when those sort of realizations

25 started to come to the forefront.

Page 370 A. I'm sure I've read the ones that I

2 was prescribed.

1

Q. Do you know whether the information

- 4 that is provided with prescription opioids in
- 5 the United States includes a warning regarding 6 addiction?
- 7 A. I believe that it does.
- 8 MS. KEARSE: And, Counsel, I think
- 9 we established there's a specific 30(b)
- 10 specific to the FDA, which we responded to in
- 11 writing, and I'd say it's outside the scope of
- 12 Ms. Johnson's testimony.
- 13 Q. Is it your --
- 14 MR. SCHUTTE: Hold on. I don't
- 15 know if we're going to do anything about this,
- 16 but the people on the phone, they've -- the
- 17 realtime feed has dropped again.
- MS. FEINSTEIN: Oh, it has. Okay.
- 19 Do we need to go off the record to fix that?
- 20 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record
- 21 at 6:30.
- 22 (A recess was taken.)
- 23 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record at
- 24 6:40.
- 25 BY MS. FEINSTEIN:

2 that addressed pharmaceutical marketing?

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- 1 Task Force meeting in the 2014-2015 time frame
- 3 A. Other than the discussions we've
- 4 talked about at those meetings?
- Q. You've discussed a parent reporting 5
- 6 a conversation with a physician.
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. Was there anything specific
- 9 discussed about pharmaceutical marketing within
- 10 the context of that discussion?
- 11 A. I don't recall anything beyond the
- 12 slides and the parent and hearing those words
- 13 for the first time.
- 14 Q. Whose slides -- what slide deck are
- 15 you referring to?
- A. I believe it was used as an exhibit
- 17 in Prosecutor Wilms' deposition. There were
- 18 some statistics put up about how many pills per
- 19 quarter were being put into Summit County, and
- 20 I remember being struck by the number and then
- 21 having the conversation with prosecutor Wilms,
- 22 who reminded me to multiply it by 4.
- 23 Q. Was -- it was -- strike that.
  - Who was presenting the slide deck?
- 25 A. It was Jerry Craig from the ADM. I

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24

14

- Q. Thank you. We had a few technical
- 2 issues, but hopefully we're -- we're back on
- 3 track.

1

- 4 MS. FEINSTEIN: If you could please
- 5 read the last question, because I've lost track
- 6 of where we were.
- 7 (Record read.)
- 8 MS. FEINSTEIN: Thank you. And 9 there was an objection. The witness answered.
- 10 I just wanted to confirm where we were.
- MS. KEARSE: Okay. All right.
- 12 There was no pending -- there wasn't a pending
- 13 question.
- 14 MS. FEINSTEIN: Right, there was no
- 15 pending question.
- 16 MS. KEARSE: Right, right.
- 17 MS. FEINSTEIN: I mean, we lost
- 18 our --
- 19 MS. KEARSE: Okay.
- MS. FEINSTEIN: -- our connection. 20
- 21 Q. Other than that anecdotal
- 22 information that you reported from the task
- 23 force meeting, was there any specific
- 24 discussion about pharmaceutical marketing at
- 25 the Opioid Task -- the Summit County Opioid

Page 373 1 can't recall if anybody was doing it in

- 2 conjunction, but the slides were from ADM. I
- 3 remember Jerry being at the front of the room.
- Q. You testified earlier about numbers
- 4 5 of pills being available in 2010.
- 6 A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. In that time frame, right?
- 8 A. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. Is that a yes?
- 10 Yes. I'm sorry, yes.
- Q. Thanks. And you also testified 11
- 12 about the number of pills that Summit County
- 13 was aware of in 2012, right?
  - A. Correct.
- 15 Q. Does Summit County have any data
- 16 regarding the availability of prescription
- 17 opioids in Summit County prior to 2010?
- 18
  - A. I believe so. I believe that was
- 19 included in -- in some of the graphs that I
- 20 reviewed. I remember thinking that it had 21 peaked in 2010 and then reviewing another
- 22 document that I remember seeing the numbers
- 23 were even higher in 2012.
- 24 Q. What was the subject matter of
- 25 Mr. Craig's presentation, if you recall?

- A. It was really sort of telling the
- 2 community, you want to know where these
- 3 problems are coming from, look at these
- 4 statistics to help us understand what's
- 5 happening here in our community.
- Q. Aside from pharmaceutical 7 marketing, what factors does Summit County
- 8 contended affected prescribing of prescription
- 9 opioids in Summit County?
- 10 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- A. There weren't any. I mean, the 11
- 12 prescribing came from the ind- -- the
- 13 prescribing practices were really informed by
- 14 the industry.
- Q. Earlier, you testified about the 15
- 16 pain as the fifth vital sign.
- 17 A. Uh-huh, yes.
- 18 Q. What did you mean by that?
- 19 A. Well it -- prior to that, there
- 20 were only four. And it's my understanding that
- 21 when pain became the fifth vital sign, it
- 22 became a real driver in patient satisfaction,
- 23 and that many of the manufacturers participated
- 24 in patient satisfaction surveys, and that some
- 25 of the questions involved in these patient

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- 1 satisfaction surveys are related to, did this
- 2 medication treat your pain? Are you better now
- 3 than you were then?
- Q. Is it your understanding that the
- 5 manufacturers were behind pain as a fifth vital
- 6 sign?
- 7 A. I -- I don't know specifically that
- 8 I've read that, but everything that I've read
- 9 leads me to believe that the pharmaceutical
- 10 industry participated in the process of this
- 11 sort of shift in thinking about pain as the
- 12 fifth vital sign.
- Q. What have you read that led you to
- 14 believe that the pharmaceutical manufacturers
- 15 were behind the -- the shift to pain as a fifth
- 16 vital sign?
- 17 A. As I said, I can't point to
- 18 anything specific other than the opinions I've
- 19 formed as a result of my time in this community
- 20 and preparing specifically for this deposition.
- 21 Q. And you just said, though, that
- 22 based on things that you read. So I want to
- 23 know what things did you read that led you to
- 24 that conclusion?
- 25 It's hard not to. This has become

Page 376 1 such -- I wasn't a conspiracy theorist before I

- 2 started to understand the money that drives
- 3 this industry. And when I look at the human
- 4 capital that has been lost in my community as a
- 5 result of the improper actions of the
- 6 Defendants in this case, I can't point you to
- 7 an article other than I believe that they
- 8 participated in it.

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- I -- they've participated in so
- 10 many other changes in the medical field that I
- 11 think it would be naive of me to think that
- 12 they did not. I feel very naive that I was not
- 13 more focused on them before 2014-2015.
- 14 Q. So it's -- it's just your belief
- 15 that there's a connection; you didn't actually
- 16 read something that led you to have that
- 17 connection?
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - A. On behalf of Summit County, I
- 20 believe that to be true, yes.
- Q. But you can't think of anything 21
- 22 specific that you read that connects the
- 23 pharmaceutical industry with pain as the fifth
- 24 vital sign?
- 25 A. No.

- Q. Have you ever heard of the Joint
- 2 Commission on Accreditation of Health
- 3 Organizations?
  - A. I don't believe I have.
- 5 Q. Did you ever hear -- strike that.
- 6 Do you recall reading in
- 7 Dr. Smith's deposition about the Joint
- 8 Commission prescribing guidelines?
- A. I -- I'd have to -- you'd have to
- 10 show it to me in his transcript. I don't
- 11 recall that specifically.
- 12 Q. Do you ever remember any
- 13 presentation done by the Summit County Opioid
- 14 Task Force that identified the Joint Commission
- 15 prescribing guidelines as a contributing factor
- 16 to the opioid epidemic?
- 17 A. I -- I don't recall that part
- 18 specifically. No, I do not.
- Q. Did you ever read the governor's
- 20 report that we referenced earlier -- or that
- 21 you referenced earlier in your testimony, from
- 22 2010?
- 23 A. I didn't read it page for page. I
- 24 definitely looked at it and looked at some of
- 25 the findings and recommendations and sort of

Page 380 Page 378 1 focused on who was on it and what roles they 1 oval, I guess, in the middle, and it says, 2 "Epidemic," and then the graphic includes six 2 played. 3 3 boxes with arrows pointing in toward the oval Q. And I believe you testified 4 earlier, and please correct me if I am 4 that says "Epidemic," right? 5 misremembering, and I don't have the live feed 5 A. Yes. 6 to double check it. But I believe you 6 Q. Above that, the narrative, the 7 testified that because there was a shift in the 7 title of the narrative section is, "How did 8 administration, that the report really was kind 8 this become an epidemic?" 9 of obsolete? 9 Do you see that? 10 10 A. I do. A. Yes. 11 11 Q. Had you read this information 12 (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 18, 12 before today? 13 10/1/2010 Document Titled "Ohio A. I've looked at this in preparation 13 14 Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force: 14 for the deposition. 15 Final Report Task Force 15 Q. Is it your understanding -- or 16 Recommendations, was marked for 16 strike that. 17 purposes of identification.) 17 Earlier you said because of the --18 18 the change in the administration, folks didn't 19 Q. I'm going to hand you what we've 19 really give much weight to this report because 20 marked as Exhibit 18 for identification 20 the administration changed hands; is that 21 purposes. Do you recognize Exhibit 18 to be 21 right? 22 22 the report, the 2010 report from the Ohio A. I wouldn't say folks didn't give it 23 Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force? 23 much weight. I -- I don't think it reached a 24 broad audience. You know, I sort of prided 24 A. Yes. 25 25 myself on being a very informed prosecutor, and Is this the report you were Page 379 Page 381 1 referring to earlier in your testimony? 1 we were led by a prosecutor who was very A. I think so. It looks a little 2 connected to -- to the state capitol. And so 3 different. I don't -- I think this was the 3 these were typically things -- I was surprised 4 front page that I had, this sort of yellow. 4 that I had not seen it, because of her O. Okay. So the second page of 5 connection. 6 Exhibit 18, at least the copy that we've 6 But then when I looked at sort of 7 marked, you recognize that? 7 the timing of when it was released and the, you 8 A. Yes, I do. 8 know, change of guard, it did not surprise me MS. KEARSE: And, Counsel, I just 9 that it had not reached a broader audience. 10 want to make sure, I mean, this was all in 10 Q. And do you know for a fact that it 11 preparation for testimony, so any discussions 11 did not reach a broader audience just because 12 you personally did not know of it? 12 that we have had, that would be privileged. 13 Q. Before preparing for your 13 A. Well, as I stated before, I asked 14 deposition, had you seen this document before? 14 multiple people in preparation for this if they 15 A. No. 15 had ever seen it, and they had not. Q. Who did you ask who said that they Q. Was this document discussed at any 16 17 of the opiate task -- the Summit County Opioid 17 had never seen it? 18 Task Force meetings that you attended? A. Patrick Leonard, Gertrude Wilms, 18 19 A. I don't recall. 19 and I believe Brad Gessner testified that he

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24

20 had never seen it.

Q. Did you talk with any clinicians

A. No. As I previously stated, I read

22 like Dr. Smith or any of the other clinicians

23 that -- that you've spoken to, about this?

25 Dr. Smith's testimony, but I did not have a

Q. Directing your attention, please,

24 in the middle of the page, and the bottom part

25 of the page is a graphic that has a circle or

Q. Page 21 of Exhibit 18 has some text

21 to page 21 of Exhibit 18. Are you there?

A. I am.

20

22

Page 382 Page 384 1 discussion with him. 1 "contributing factor," because that has weight. 2 Q. Is it your understanding that -- or 2 It has value. 3 The cause of this epidemic in 3 strike that. 4 Summit County is the opioid industry. The 4 This document that is dated October 5 1, 2010, do you understand this to be publicly 5 changes in clinical pain management, the 6 aggressive marketing, those -- these other 6 available? 7 things, those all exacerbate this problem of 7 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 8 the readily available supply in my community. 8 A. Well, it -- it's a public record. 9 So I -- you know, I didn't write 9 You'd have to know what you were looking for or 10 asking for to get it. I don't know how it was 10 this. I -- I don't like -- I won't use the 11 disseminated or to whom it was sent, but it --11 term "contributing factor." Q. What are the contributing factors 12 it's absolutely a public record. 12 13 Q. This public record from 2010 13 to the cause of the opioid epidemic? 14 includes a discussion of how prescription A. I -- I don't subscribe anything to 15 a contributing factor. There is one cause, and 15 opioids became an epidemic, right? A. I see that, uh-huh. 16 there are things, other elements that have 17 spread this fire, but the match was lit by the 17 O. And it includes a discussion of a 18 industry. 18 number of factors, right? 19 A. Yes. Q. On what do you -- strike that. 19 20 Q. Among those factors, they're listed 20 First, what is the one cause? What 21 do you mean by the opioid industry? What does 21 in the graphic, and then also there's a 22 that include? 22 narrative that follows in Exhibit 18 about most A. The manufacturers, distributors, 23 of those factors. Among those factors is "changes in 24 and pharmacies who dispensed these pills into 24 25 the community. 25 clinical pain management." Do you see that? Page 383 Page 385 1 A. I do. Q. And it's your testimony, on behalf 2 of Summit County, on the topic of contributing Q. Do you have any understanding of --3 of what that factor in the contributions to the 3 factors to the opioid epidemic, that there are 4 opioid epidemic is? 4 no other contributing factors; is that right? 5 A. I'm sorry. Could you rephrase 5 A. No, there are no other -- that is 6 the factor. That is the cause. 6 that? Q. Sure, sure. Do you have any 7 These other things that are in 8 understanding of what is meant by changes in 8 these, you know, fancy colored boxes or -- or 9 clinical pain management in this graphic 9 things outside of the industry certainly spread 10 depicting contributing factors to the opioid 10 that fire, but, again, that match was lit with 11 epidemic? 11 one -- with one entity, and that's the 12 A. I -- if you're asking if changes in 12 industry. 13 pain management are the cause of this problem, Q. I think you've testified that you 14 I -- I would tend to disagree that they are the 14 are not familiar with the Joint Commission on 15 cause. They may have exacerbated the problem, 15 the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, 16 but they are not necessarily the root cause. 16 right? 17 Q. No, my question was, do you 17 A. I -- I don't believe so. I -- if 18 understand that to be one of the contributing 18 you had a document I could look at, but I don't 19 factors? I'm not asking for a determination --19 believe so. 20 A. I understand but that that's what 20 21 21 this report says. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 19, 22 Q. Do you disagree that changes in 22 Document Titled "Joint Commission on 23 clinical pain management are a contributing 23 Accreditation of Healthcare

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Organizations Pain Standards for

2001," PPLPC019001392359 to

24

25

25

24 factor to the opioid epidemic?

A. I don't want to use the term

Page 386 Page 388 1 019001392374, was marked for 1 Implementation for RI-1" -- or "RI.1.2.8." 2 purposes of identification.) 2 Do you see that? 3 3 A. I see that, yes. 4 Q. Hand you what we've marked as --4 Q. The first entry underneath that is 5 number one, and it reads, "Pain is considered a 5 A. Okay. 6 Q. -- Exhibit 19 for identification 6 fifth vital sign in the hospital's care of 7 patients." purposes. 8 8 Have you ever seen that document Did I read that correctly? 9 before? 9 A. Yes. 10 A. I do not recognize this one. 10 Q. Do you know whether the Q. This is publicly available 11 pharmaceutical industry has any relationship to 11 12 information dated from 2001 on the Joint 12 the Joint Commission? 13 Commission on Accreditation of Health Care A. I -- I don't know. I'm not 13 14 Organization Pain Standards for 2001. 14 familiar with the Joint Commission, as I -- as 15 Do you see that at the top of the 15 I stated. 16 page? 16 Q. And do you know whether the Joint 17 A. I do. 17 Commission made a recommendation, in 2001, to Q. And you don't have any 18 health care providers to consider pain in 19 understanding of the Joint Commission's 19 evaluating patients? 20 relationship with health care entities? 20 A. Did the -- I'm sorry. Could you 21 A. I do not. 21 say that one more time. 22 Q. And you don't recall any testimony 22 Q. Reading this document --23 in Dr. Smith's deposition regarding the Joint 23 MS. FLOWERS: I'm sorry. What page 24 Commission guidelines? 24 is it? 25 Not specifically, I don't. 2.5 MS. FEINSTEIN: It is RI-14. Page 387 Page 389 Q. I'd like to direct your attention 1 THE WITNESS: It's in that corner. 1 2 to the second page of Exhibit 19. Near the top 2 MS. FEINSTEIN: Yeah, sorry. 3 of the page, you'll see three bullets, and 3 There -- there's also a Bates number that is 4 immediately underneath that, it says, 4 Bates ending 2370. 5 5 "Effective pain management is appropriate for MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. 6 all patients, not just for dying patients," and 6 MS. FEINSTEIN: You're welcome. 7 then paren, "See standards RI.1.2.8." 7 Q. Before reading this today, had you 8 A. I see that. 8 ever heard of the Joint Commission issuing a 9 recommendation that pain be considered a fifth Q. Do you see that? 10 A. I do. 10 vital sign? A. No. I -- again, to -- to be Q. Have you ever heard of any medical 12 honest, I don't know that I've -- if I've heard 12 accrediting agency indicating that pain 13 the term or read the term "Joint Commission on 13 management is appropriate for all patients? 14 Accreditation of Health Care Organizations," A. I've not heard that, and I 15 certainly wouldn't contend that pain management 15 it's not something that is common or familiar 16 isn't appropriate for people who are in pain. 16 to me. 17 Q. Continuing on in this document, 17 Q. Do you know whether the prescribing 18 guidelines provided by the Joint Commission to 18 near the back, you will see examples of --19 health care facilities had any impact on 19 strike that. 20 prescribing practices of physicians? 20 Let me try to find a page number 21 A. I don't know. 21 for you. At the bottom, there is a page number 22 RI-14. The bottom left. 22 The other factors that are 23 identified in Exhibit 18 on page 21 that we 23 A. Okay. 24 Q. In the middle of the page, there is 24 were looking at, that graphic, have you ever 25 a -- a section that's titled, "Examples Of 25 seen a similar graphic to this that's been

1 presented by the Opioid Task Force?

- 2 A. I have.
- 3 Q. Did you discount all of those other
- 4 factors as contributing to the opioid epidemic?
- 5 A. I don't discount them as playing a 6 role in exacerbating the epidemic that we had
- 7 in Summit County. I don't use the term
- 8 "contributing cause," because I understand the
- 9 weight that that carries.
- 10 Q. You understand, as -- as a former 11 prosecutor, that it's important to have
- 12 evidence to support claims, right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What evidence, specific evidence
- 15 regarding the marketing of pharmaceuticals does 15 acknowledge that the opioid crisis is complex?
- 16 Summit County have that -- that the marketing
- 17 of pharmaceuticals caused the opioid epidemic.
- 18 What evidence do you point to?
- 19 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 20 A. I guess -- I'm sorry. I -- what
- 21 evidence do I point to that suggests that the
- 22 marketing of opioids caused the harm?
- 23 Q. Yes.
- A. Is that a question? Okay.
- 25 Throughout the discovery process

Page 392

- 1 and the testimony I remember reading from the
- 2 physicians who have testified, they've all
- 3 learned about the addictive nature of opioids.
- 4 But these were being marketed in a different
- 5 way, that they were slow release, that they
- 6 were non-habit forming, that two 12-hour pills
- 7 a day could be long-term relief for pain. And
- 8 that people wouldn't build up a tolerance, that
- 9 the pain would somehow offset this addiction,
- 10 which just simply wasn't true.
- People were no longer taking them
- 12 for pain. They were taking them so that they
- 13 would not become sick.
- 14 Q. Is it -- does Summit County
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 17 A. It could be characterized as
- 18 complex. It could absolutely be characterized
- 19 as quite simple: that the marketplace for
- 20 these pills was created by an industry that
- 21 preyed upon people who didn't know any better.
- Q. Is it your testimony, on behalf of
- 23 Summit County, that there are no other
- 24 contributing factors to the opioid crisis?
  - A. I am not going to use the word

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25

4

- 1 I've learned that the -- some of the marketing 2 materials were inaccurate, and --
- 3 Q. And how did that cause the harm?
- 4 A. -- misleading.
- 5 Doctors relied on those materials,
- 6 and patients relied on their doctors. And as a
- 7 person who trusts doctors and trusts
- 8 physicians, in a community like that, where --
- 9 where there is that inherent trust, that --
- 10 that created this epidemic in -- in people that
- 11 would not have come into contact with opioids
- 12 but for taking them at the direction of their
- 13 doctor, who was operating under inaccurate
- 14 information directly from the marketing
- 15 materials.
- 16 There are doctors who certainly,
- 17 had they known the real outcomes that this
- 18 false narrative that these were not going to
- 19 become habit forming and these were not going
- 20 to become harmful, would have suggested other
- 21 ways to treat the pain.
- Q. Is it your testimony that
- 23 physicians were not aware that opioids had a
- 24 risk of addiction?

25

A. I think physicians learn, and --

- 1 "contributing factors." There are other issues 2 in our community that have added gasoline to
- 3 the fire, that have exacerbated the problem.
  - Q. What are some of those factors?
- 5 A. Most of them occur after the point
- 6 that addiction has already taken hold.
- 7 Q. I'm not asking when. I'm asking
- 8 what are those contributing factors?
- 9 A. But it's important to note the
- 10 timing of them, because, again, not a
- 11 contributing factor, but when you have people
- 12 who go to their doctor and have had an accident
- 13 at work or have had an injury at work, and they
- 14 want to go back to work, they are in a job that
- 15 if they don't work, they don't get paid. They
- 16 don't have paid time off, or they have had a
- 17 fight with BWC that they're not going to win.
- 18 And they have to put food on the table. So
- 19 they do whatever they need to do to feel a
- 20 certain way so that they can go to work.
- 21 So economic driver certainly is a
- 22 part of that. But, again, they aren't getting
- 23 those pills unless there's a doctor who's
- 24 relying on the manufacturer's information
- 25 prescribing those.

Page 394 Q. Do illicit opioids play any role in

- 2 the opioid crisis? 3 A. Illicit meaning through diversion?
- Q. Illicit meaning through diversion,
- 5 illicit opiates, do those play any role in the 6 opioid crisis?
- A. I mean, diversion certainly plays a 8 role, no question. And illicit, if you mean
- 9 what we would call street drugs, heroin and
- 10 fentanyl, certainly.

1

- But, again, people aren't using
- 12 heroin out of the gate. This influx of 40
- 13 million pills per year created an avenue that
- 14 heroin was able to drive right through, because
- 15 people couldn't get the pills. And we weren't
- 16 identifying those folks, because they were
- 17 still going to work. They were still trying to
- 18 maintain a regular lifestyle. And when those
- 19 pills were no longer available, the cheaper and
- 20 easier way to not get pill sick was to buy
- 21 heroin.
- 22 Q. And it's your testimony that Summit
- 23 County could not make any connection between
- 24 the alleged role of the opioid industry, as
- 25 you've described it, which includes

- Page 395 1 manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies,
- 2 until 2014, despite the fact that you've
- 3 testified that Summit County had information
- 4 about a heightened risk of fentanyl in the
- 5 2000s, that the number of opioid pills
- 6 available was known to be rather high in 2010
- 7 and in 2012, and the governor's report that
- 8 identified -- the governor's opioid task force
- 9 report that identified pharmaceutical
- 10 marketing, among other potential factors,
- 11 contributing to an opioid epidemic that was
- 12 identified in 2010? It's your testimony that
- 13 with all that information, Summit County was
- 14 not aware of any connection between the opioid
- 15 industry and the opioid problem until 2014; is
- 16 that right?
- 17 MS. KEARSE: Object -- object to
- 18 form. Mischaracterizes Ms. Johnson's
- 19 testimony.
- 20 Victim blaming, however carefully
- 21 crafted or explained, is repugnant to me, and
- 22 when we identified the root of the crisis in
- 23 our community, we took action, and we took
- 24 action in the form of a lawsuit.
- 25 We did not reach out to the FDA.

1 We did not do those things that you asked

- 2 about. We went, as a community, inward and did
- 3 everything we could to save people's lives.
- 4 So I reject the notion that we were
- 5 sitting around waiting for this to get bad.
- 6 Everyone in their lane was doing everything
- 7 they could to address the issue. And when we,
- 8 the collective we, came to this conclusion, we
- 9 acted.
- 10 Q. So it's your testimony that prior
- 11 to that epiphany at the Opioid Task Force
- 12 meeting in 2014-2015, Summit County had no
- 13 information available to it to make a
- 14 connection between its view that the opioid
- 15 industry created this opioid issue?
- MS. KEARSE: Objection to form, and 16
- 17 misstates her testimony.
- A. I stated before, there were red
- 19 flags. There were upticks in cases. There
- 20 were new people seeking treatment. There was
- 21 an increased request for treatment. But it was
- 22 not until these times when the collective
- 23 community came together that we identified the
- 24 root of all of these problems people were
- 25 facing in their lanes.

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- MS. FEINSTEIN: All right. Why
- 2 don't we take a short break here, and I'll flip
- 3 through my notes, and I think I'm almost done.
- 4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record 5 at 7:10.
- 6 (A recess was taken.)
- 7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On the record,
- 8 7:35.

- 9 BY MS. FEINSTEIN:
- 10 Q. Thank you. Ms. Johnson, I just
- 11 have a few more questions for you, and then I'm
- 12 going to pass the mic to one of my colleagues.
- 13 I was asking you some questions
- 14 that related to Deposition Topics No. 9 and
- 15 No. 34 as modified by Special Master Cohen, as
- 16 listed in what we've marked as Exhibit 1. Both
- 17 of those topics request information from Summit
- 18 County as a non-expert related to the topics. 19
  - Do you see that?
- 20 A. I do.
- 21 Q. And was the testimony that you were
- 22 providing to me during the questions that I
- 23 asked you earlier today, in your capacity as a
- 24 corporate designee for Summit County as
- 25 non-expert on those items?

Page 398 Page 400 1 A. Yes, I've not been qualified as an 1 preparing, so intentionally preparing, in 2 expert in these fields. 2 addition to my work in this community, I -- 60 3 MS. FEINSTEIN: Thank you for your 3 to 70 hours, probably, between reading the 4 transcripts and -- and reviewing the documents 4 time. I have nothing further. 5 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. 5 that -- and that's a low estimate, I would 6 EXAMINATION OF GRETA JOHNSON 6 guess, but, yeah, I don't... 7 BY MR SCHUTTE: Q. Okay. One of the transcripts you Q. Well, I have to say good evening --8 said you reviewed in preparation for the 8 9 A. Good evening. 9 deposition today was Julie Barnes? Q. -- Ms. Johnson. My name is Scott 10 10 A. Yes, I did. 11 Schutte. I represented Rite Aid, and I have Q. And can you tell us what Julie 11 12 Barnes' title is? 12 some questions to ask you now on behalf of my 13 client. 13 A. She's the director of the 14 First of all, let me start with 14 Children's Services Bureau in Summit County. 15 something that you testified about early in the 15 Q. Okay. Do you recall her testimony, 16 day, which was that you said you were 16 Ms. Johnson, that between 25 percent and 33 17 personally affected by the opioid crisis 17 percent of the people that she comes into 18 because you lost a friend to overdose? 18 contact through, through her work are addicted 19 19 to some drug or other? A. Yes. 20 O. What was his name? 20 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 21 21 A. I recall -- I recall 30 percent is Alan. A. 22 O. What was his last name? 22 what sticks in my mind. I recall that there --23 23 that addiction rates were -- were at around 30 Eller. A. 24 How do you spell that? 24 percent in some way, shape, or form. O. 25 E-l-l-e-r. 25 Q. But did you understand her Page 399 Q. And you said that you knew him 1 testimony to be that there is a certain segment 1 2 from -- from college and knew him well? 2 of the population with which she interacts that 3 A. I knew him well in college, yes. 3 was going to be addicted to some drug at any 4 given time, and it moved depending on available Q. And at the time of his passing, you 5 had not had contact with him in recent times? 5 and perception of safety between 6 methamphetamines, cocaine, heroin, alcohol, A. Correct. 7 7 marijuana? Q. And the information you testified 8 to about his -- the fact that he had been using MS. KEARSE: I'm going -- I'm going 9 to object to the form, and if you want show her 9 prescription opioids while in college and had 10 become eventually a heroin user was information 10 the testimony, you're free to show her the 11 that you heard from other folks that you knew 11 testimony. 12 at college? 12 A. I -- the first part of your 13 question was does she come into contact with 13 A. Yes. 14 folks who are abusing and -- and are those the O. Where -- where did he live when he 14 15 passed, if you know? 15 drugs? 16 16 Q. Let me start over. A. It was not in Summit County. 17 Q. Okay. How much time did you 17 Do you recall the portion of her 18 prepare -- spend preparing for your deposition 18 testimony where she testified that -- that the

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19 population she's in contact with, she estimated

She testified that 25 to 33 percent

20 that any given time, 25 percent to 33 percent

25 of the people she comes into contact with are

21 are addicted to some drug or another, 22 irrespective of what drug is -- let me -- let

23 me strike that and start over.

24

19 today? 20

21 answered.

MS. KEARSE: Objection. Asked and

A. As I looked at what I had done to

23 prepare, it's somewhere between 30 and 35 hours 24 that I've spent with the attorneys on the case.

25 And then I would estimate specifically

- 1 addicts of one drug or another, and the type of 2 drug rotates among things like marijuana,
- 3 alcohol, meth, cocaine and opioids; do you 4 recall that?
- MS. KEARSE: I'm going to object to 6 the form of the question, and direct, if you 7 want to show her testimony, you're free to do 8 that.
- 9 A. I -- I --
- 10 MS. KEARSE: Mischaracterizes it.
- A. Yeah, I don't recall in -- I guess 11
- 12 in my mind I recall there being 30 percent
- 13 being a percentage that I felt like was
- 14 attributable to the increase in placement due
- 15 to opioids. I'd ask to see that. I can
- 16 certainly comment on it. If you have it, I'd
- 17 be glad to look at it.
- Q. Do you believe that Julie Barnes
- 19 has expertise in -- in dealing with a
- 20 population that is addicted to opioids?
- 21 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 22 A. She's an expert in Children's
- 23 Services, and as a result of the opioid crisis
- 24 has had to educate herself and her staff on
- 25 interacting with people who are addicted and

1 individuals start with opioids.

- Q. I'll come back to that in a second,
- 3 but I want to stick with your testimony that

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- 4 people are not using heroin out the gate.
- A. Yeah, addiction is a progressive
- 6 disease, and there's still a real -- even 7 addicts, there is a level that people feel like
- 8 once you put a needle in your arm, everything
- 9 changes, so that -- that's still a pervasive
- 10 thought in the community, even in the addiction
- 11 community and the population affected by
- 12 addiction.
- 13 So with addiction being such a
- 14 progressive illness, it would be incredibly
- 15 uncommon -- and this is something that I talked
- 16 with Donna Abbot about -- or, I'm sorry, Donna
- 17 Skoda about -- about the ways in which people
- 18 transition through different drugs.
- Q. Okay. Let me -- let me try this
- 20 again. My question is not about people
- 21 transitioning through drugs. My question is
- 22 about your testimony that people are not using
- 23 heroin out of the gate.
- 24 And what I'm trying to understand
- 25 and trying to have you testify to the ladies

- 1 the cadre of issues that come along with that.
- I don't think Julie Barnes set out
- 3 to be an opioid addiction expert. She -- as
- 4 the director of Children's Services, she's been
- 5 forced into a role of having to become far more
- 6 knowledgeable than she originally was.
- Q. You testified, just before the last
- 8 break -- and I didn't have a live feed so I
- 9 hope I have this correct -- that, quote,
- 10 "People are not using heroin out of the gate,"
- 11 close quote.
- 12 Is that correct?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. Is it -- so it is your testimony,
- 15 as a corporate representative for Summit
- 16 County, that not a single person in Summit
- 17 County becomes addicted to heroin without first 17 Opiate Task Force meetings where we have people
- 18 using a prescription opioid?
- A. No, not without first using a
- 20 prescription opioid. Certainly there are, I'm
- 21 sure, some addicts who transitioned from other
- 22 drugs. But by and large, the heroin epidemic
- 23 that came sort of as the -- the tail of the
- 24 fireball of the opioid epidemic, the numbers
- 25 consistently show that 80 percent of those

- 1 and gentlemen of the jury about is whether
- 2 there's a single person in Summit County since,
- 3 let's say, 2006, who started using drugs by
- 4 using heroin and had not used a prescription
- 5 opioid before that?
  - A. I don't know the answer to that.
- 7 Q. There could be -- there could be
- 8 one person, certainly, right?
- 9 A. Perhaps.
- 10 Q. There could be thousands of those
- 11 people?
- 12 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 13 A. I wouldn't agree to that.
- 14 Q. How do you know?
- 15 A. Because I've been in this community
- 16 for the last 20 years and I've been at the
- 18 come in who are not only in active recovery,
- 19 but who provide the treatment. And
- 20 overwhelmingly -- 80 percent to me seems low,
- 21 because overwhelmingly these folks started with
- 22 prescription pain pills.
- 23 The 20 percent that gets us to the
- 24 hundred, those are just unknowns or unreported,
- 25 people who either didn't want to tell or

1 perhaps they did start with something else.

- 2 But at least 80 percent started with opioid 3 pain pills.
- 4 Q. Okay. So we can agree, can't we,
- 5 that possibly as many as 20 percent of folks
- 6 who are using heroin started with heroin and
- 7 did not start with prescription opioids?
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 9 Misstates her char- -- her testimony.
- A. We could agree to that, but we 10
- 11 could also get to 100 percent, because I
- 12 believe that 20 percent to be unknown.
- Q. We can't get to 100 percent, 14 because you already told me you'll agree that
- 15 not every -- there's at least one person who
- 16 started with heroin, not prescription opioids?
- 17 A. I said there could be, not that
- 18 there was. I'm not aware of anyone who I've
- 19 come into contact with who started with heroin.
- 20 Q. Okay. But I'm not asking about
- 21 your personal knowledge, ma'am. I'm talking
- 22 about you as a corporate representative of
- 23 Summit County, okay?
- 24 A. Yes. And when I discussed this
- 25 with the public health director, she agreed

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- 1 the law enforcement officials, by the ADM Board
- 2 officials. That is general knowledge in Summit
- 3 County that 80 percent of these folks are
- 4 starting with opioid pills.
- Q. You were a prosecutor for how many 6 years?
- 7 Approximately 10. Just over 10.
  - You tried cases in front of juries? O.
- 9

8

19

24

- 10 O. You understand that -- I -- well.
- 11 let's strike that.
- 12 I assume that when you were a
- 13 prosecutor, if the defense was tendering an
- 14 argument that it's generally understood in the
- 15 community I didn't commit a crime, that that
- 16 probably wouldn't be evidence that you would
- 17 allow in without objection, correct?
- 18 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - A. I would also say that there were
- 20 plenty of times that evidence was "Everybody in
- 21 the neighborhood knew," and we relied on that
  - 22 all the time.
  - 23 Q. Could you give me an example?
    - A. Sure. "Everybody in the
  - 25 neighborhood knew that the after-party was at

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- 1 that this is not an illness where people use
- 2 heroin, using my terms, out of the gate. That
- 3 this is something that progresses to people
- 4 finding themselves so desperate to not become
- 5 ill, that they will -- they will find heroin on
- 6 the street.

8

- 7 Q. And the public health director is
- 8 Donna Skoda?
- A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you believe she's good at her
- 11 job?
- 12 A. I do.
- 13 Do you believe she's knowledgeable?
- 14
- 15 Q. Do you believe she has expertise?
- 16
- 17 O. This 80 percent number, as I
- 18 understood your testimony, it comes from a
- 19 study that you reviewed?
- 20 Yes, from the American Medical
- 21 Journal, I believe was what it was from.
- 22 Q. All right. When was it published?
- 23 A. 2013, and then, as I previously
- 24 stated as well, that number is discussed by the 25 public health officials in Summit County, by

- Page 409 1 490 Allen Street." "Everybody knew that even
- 2 though the bar was supposed to close at
- 3 a.m., it stayed open until 4:00."
- Q. But you -- you'd establish that 4
- 5 through testimony?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. People who -- people who actually
- 8 testified and had firsthand knowledge that the
- 9 bar was open after 2:00?
- 10 A. Sure.
- 11 Q. Or people who testified, based on
- 12 personal knowledge, that -- what was the thing?
- 13 490? What was the reference?
- A. That -- that an after-party was 14
- 15 always at this particular house.
- Q. Okay. For the ladies and gentlemen
- 17 of the jury, I understand now that you pointed
- 18 to an article that you said was published in
- 19 2013 ---
- 20 A. I believe.
- 21 Q. -- in the Amer- -- in the AMA
- 22 Journal, and I understand we can -- we can dig
- 23 that up and look at that.
- 24 But with respect to all those other
- 25 folks that you said you heard this 80 percent

1 number from, do any of them have personal2 knowledge about the percentage of people who

3 started as a prescription opiate -- opioid user

4 and then became a heroin addict?

5 A. Yes. That information is presented 6 at the Opiate Task Force meetings and has been 7 presented at the Opiate Task Force meetings 8 from treatment providers, and also from law 9 enforcement officials who come into contact

10 with folks every day who, you know, are 11 arrested.

The -- the number of individuals
who go through our drug courts, I've heard our
drug court judges talk about the overwhelming
majority of individuals who are using heroin

16 started with opioids.

So I don't -- there are -- the data
dashboards are out there for the ADM and the
public health. But I -- I have lived among
these people, and I have heard their, not sworn
testimony in front of a jury, but this is what
they do. It is the lane in which they live

23 every day. The drug court judges, the director

24 of ADM, the public health commissioner, these 25 are folks who do this work every day, and they

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1 You know, you've said I'm an 2 attorney. Everybody's pointing out that I'm an

3 attorney. I'm a mother. And when a mother

4 looks at you and tells you what killed her 5 child, that has weight also.

Q. Ma'am, can we -- we have limited time, and I understand that you feel passionately about this, but I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about this number,

10 this 8 out of 10 or 80 percent number that 11 you've talked about all day long. Let me make

12 sure I understand it.

That's based on one study that
you've seen, and it's based on talking to folks
who estimate that in their experience, that
that's what they've seen, that 80 percent of
folks who are addicted to heroin started using
prescription opioids?

19 MS. KEARSE: Object to form, and 20 argumentative.

A. I stand by 80 percent.

Q. Okay. But my question is, do I

23 have the bases for that testimony correct?

24 It's one article plus folks you've talked to?

hey 25 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. That

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21

22

1 all agree on this number as well.

Q. They all say 80 percent?

3 A. Yes. Absolutely.

4 Q. Do any of them say 75 percent?

5 A. I've heard 85 percent. I've heard 6 it higher. But 80 percent is -- is where it

7 almost always lands, is that 80.

Q. And that's anecdotal, though?MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

10 Q. It's not based -- it's not based on 11 any kind of scientific study or any survey;

12 it's based on what these folks you claim have

13 heard out on the street or seen out on the 14 street?

15 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

16 A. Well, it's not what I'm claiming.

17 It's what I've heard them say. It's also my

18 own experiences, being the representative, of

19 what people say in these meetings, of what

20 these folks who are in the throes of addiction 21 are saying. It's what the family members of

22 the people who are on the list that Dr. Kohler

23 provided, it's what their families say.

And we can get into, "Well, but you

25 weren't there and you didn't see them."

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1 misstates her char- -- her testimony.

2 A. Folks I've talked to? I know it's

3 late, and I'm trying not to be argumentative as

4 well. But it's insulting to say "folks I've

5 talked to" like I'm just -- this is so

6 pervasive. And -- and you can be irritated

7 that it's your time, but this is so pervasive 8 and it is so clear that opioids are the driving

9 factor in the crisis that we are in, that it's

10 not -- I'm not saying this off the cuff or

11 being flippant about what I have heard and what

12 I've experienced.

So you can characterize it as folks 14 I've talked to. I will characterize it as the

15 work I've done in this community for the better

16 part of 15 years, my experience as a

17 prosecutor, as a legislator, and now as a 18 representative of the County, that I stand

19 beside the 80 percent.

20 Q. Okay. And, ma'am, I'm -- again,

21 I'm trying to get an answer to my question.

22 I'm not trying to irritate you. You're using a 23 very specific number. I want to make sure that

24 we understand -- we understand, going forward,

25 because I'm not going to get a chance to talk

Page 414 Page 416 1 to you again before you perhaps testify in 1 industry," close quote; is that right? 2 front of a jury. A. No. I believe I said the The question I'm asking, it's a yes 3 marketing, the promotion, the distribution, and 4 or no, which is -- are -- other than this one 4 the filling of those prescriptions. That --5 study, the name of which you don't recall, and 5 that the industry was the cause. It wasn't 6 people that you've talked about -- actually 6 just marketing. 7 three sources: the study, the people that Q. Okay. You understand that I 8 you've talked to, and your own experience, 8 represent Rite Aid, correct? I've represented 9 those are the bases of your testimony that 80 9 that to you? 10 percent of heroin users started as prescription 10 A. You said that, yes. 11 opioid users? 11 Q. Yes. And you understand that Rite 12 MS. KEARSE: All right. Again, I'm 12 Aid, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS have all been 13 going to object to the repetitive questioning. 13 sued, and we refer to them among the group as 14 She's asked and answered this. She's also 14 the Retail Pharmacy Defendants? 15 asked these questions earlier this morning 15 A. Yes, I'm aware of that. 16 during her testimony as well. Asked and 16 Q. Okay. What is your understanding 17 answered. 17 as to what the complaint alleges that the A. The American Medical Association 18 Retail Pharmacy Defendants did wrong? 19 Journal that I've talked about, I believe has A. They were an arm of the industry, 20 been produced as part of the discovery process, 20 and when these increased orders were being 21 or certainly presented to me. 21 filled, these suspicious orders, there -- there 22 The people I've talked to, as you 22 was a duty to investigate these and whether or 23 not they should have been filled, and that duty 23 characterize it, are professionals in our 24 community who do have resources where they are 24 was breached. 25 in-taking clients and asking clients how they 25 Q. What suspicious orders are you Page 415 Page 417 1 became addicted. So there is some basis for 1 referring to? 2 the representations they're making. 2 A. The orders that have been So the people I've spoken to, my 3 identified as being higher -- I don't know how 4 personal experience with these folks, and the 4 to really scientifically explain it or other 5 than the order that comes in is -- is higher at 5 article I've read, that is what has informed my 6 answer. 6 a certain level than the last order from the 7 7 pharmacy, and that I don't know if it was the Q. Okay. Can I ask you to take a look 8 at Exhibit 1. And specifically that last 8 special magistrate or the Judge that did the 9 Exhibit B, which is the modification of certain 9 little graph in the order about suspicious 10 topics by the Judge. 10 order and was -- was it looked into or 11 investigated and -- and what should have 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. I want to ask you about Topic 34. 12 happened from then. 13 I know Ms. Feinstein has asked you some 13 And it's my understanding that 14 questions about that. 14 those -- those things were not occurring, and 15 You testified as a non-expert 15 that's why the retail pharmacy chains were 16 that --16 include in the Defendants. 17 MR. SCHUTTE: Excuse me? 17 Q. What is the basis of your MS. KEARSE: Which -- what topic 18 understanding? 19 are you talking about? A. I'm sorry. I don't understand what 19 20 MR. SCHUTTE: 34. 20 you're asking. 21 MS. KEARSE: 34. 21 Q. You just testified that it was your 22 Q. You testified, as a non-expert, 22 understanding that the Retail Pharmacy 23 that the only cause of the opioid crisis in 23 Defendants were not properly reviewing the size 24 Summit County was the marketing of 24 of shipments. And I'm paraphrasing.

105 (Pages 414 - 417)

25

25 pharmaceuticals by, quote, "the pharma

www.veritext.com

Yes.

Page 418 Page 420 1 O. What's the basis of that 1 Ms. Johnson is answering the question as she 2 understanding? 2 sees fit as the corporate representative for 3 Summit County. A. My conversation --3 4 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 4 Q. You're not answering the question 5 A. My conversations with my counsel. 5 at all, are you? You're telling me that you're 6 not comfortable using the term "contributed" 6 Q. Anything else besides your 7 because it has legal meaning, and therefore, as 7 conversation with counsel? A. Well, looking at the complaint. 8 the corporate representative of Summit County, 8 9 you are not answering that portion of the Q. Besides looking at the complaint 10 and conversations with counsel, any other 10 question? 11 factual basis for that -- for that assertion? 11 MS. KEARSE: Misstates her A. No. I -- I don't think I can 12 12 testimony. 13 answer that any better. 13 A. It does misstate my testimony, Q. Okay. Okay. You -- Ms. Feinstein 14 because I'm not saying that there isn't a 15 asked you some questions about contributing 15 cause. There is a cause. It is also a valid 16 factors, and that was a term that you were not 16 answer to say there aren't any other causes, 17 comfortable with. Am I correct in hearing the 17 that the -- the primary and only cause that I 18 testimony that way? 18 believe put us in this position was the 19 A. That's correct. 19 industry. 20 Q. All right. Topic 34 asked you 20 As I've stated, there certainly are 21 to -- about the identification of entities and 21 other issues and other factors that have, 22 again, put gasoline on this fire. But I will 22 individuals other than Defendants who you, as a 23 non-expert, believe caused -- and we've covered 23 not -- I will not use the word "contributed" or 24 that. And now I wanted to focus on "and/or 24 I can't remember the word Ms. Feinstein used. 25 contributed to the opioid crisis." 25 but -- because I understand --Page 419 Page 421 Okay. What -- can you please 1 Q. I don't -- I don't want to talk 2 identify for us, as a corporate representative 2 about gasoline or fires. What I want to talk 3 about is the Judge's order that modified Topic 3 of Summit County, the entities and individuals, 4 other than Defendants, who contributed to the 4 34 --5 5 opioid crisis? A. Uh-huh. MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 6 Q. -- a topic that you're here to 7 A. Again, I'm -- I'm going to give the 7 testify about today --8 same answer I gave your co-counsel. I'm not 8 A. Yes. 9 going to use the words "contributed" or --9 Q. -- and the Judge said we are 10 those words have legal value. 10 allowed to have a corporate representative who The cause of this problem is the 11 test- -- who was to testify as to the 12 opioid industry. There have been exacerbating 12 identification of entities and individuals, 13 factors that have come along that have 13 other than the Defendants, whom you, as a 14 increased, certainly, the carnage. But the 14 non-expert believe -- let's strike "cause," 15 cause of this continues to be the industry. 15 because we've already dealt with cause --Q. So you will not comply with the 16 A. Sure. 17 Judge's order that you, as the corporate 17 O. -- believe contributed to the 18 representative for Summit County as to Topic 18 opioid crisis. Are you going to answer that 19 34, will not identify entities and individuals, 19 question or not? 20 other than the Defendants, who contributed to 20 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. 21 Argumentative. 21 the opioid crisis?

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MS. KEARSE: Yeah, it's very

23 argumentative. And -- and the specific No. 34,

25 opioid crisis." And she's doing everything she

24 "believe caused and/or contributed to the

22

MS. KEARSE: And, Counsel, I'm

23 going to set an objection. Topic 34 asks that

25 contributed to the opioid crisis. So she's --

24 as a non-expert believe caused and/or

Page 422 1 can in the last eight hours to answer all 1 A. Yes. 2 2 questions that counsel have asked her, and Q. -- on Topic 34. And that topic is 3 she's been asked these specific questions 3 identification of entities and individuals, 4 already and covered this ground. But if you 4 other than Defendants, whom you, as a 5 want to keep asking her and beat a dead horse, 5 non-expert, believed caused and/or contributed 6 to the opioid crisis. We've covered "caused." 6 go ahead. Is your -- is your position, ma'am, 7 Q. I want an answer to my question. 7 8 Are you going to provide us with 8 as you sit here today that you will not testify 9 the corporate representative testimony that a 9 about any entity or individual who contributed 10 Judge said we were entitled to, which is the 10 to the opioid crisis? 11 identification of entities and individuals, 11 MS. KEARSE: I'm going to --12 other than Defendants, who you, as a 12 Counsel, I think you're misstating her 13 non-expert, believed contributed to the opioid 13 testimony. She is doing everything that she 14 crisis? 14 can to answer the questions that are posed to 15 A. I believe I have done that. 15 her. With that, you're being very O. You have -- and -- and you've done 16 argumentative to her. Ms. Johnson has 17 that by saying that there's not any entity that 18 you can identify that contributed to the opioid

17 testified to various what she calls factors 18 that have been involved and is using other 19 terminology. 20 But it's "caused and/or 21 contributed" on there, too. She's answering 22 the question as she deems appropriate as the corporate rep for Summit County. 24 Q. The Judge used the term

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5

1 offices.

19 crisis?

21 testimony.

20

22

2

O. So that contributed?

24 people to be able to get back to work,

A. I'm not going to use the word 4 "contributed." I'm going to say that that

5 exacerbated the problem. People wouldn't have

MS. FLOWERS: Misstates her

A. I -- I was speaking with your 23 co-counsel about that inherent desire for

25 certainly drove more folks back to doctors'

6 gone back to the doctor if the doctor hadn't

7 already given them a prescription that was --8 relied upon bad information, was relied upon by

9 the Defendants saying that you could taper

10 opioids, that they were not going to be

11 addictive.

12 So that original prescription is 13 already tainted, is already a part of a bad 14 chain.

15 Q. Okay. Can we -- can we take this 16 one piece at a time, because I'd really like

17 to -- we've got -- I've got some stuff to 18 cover, and I know you want to get out of here,

19 as we do as well. Let's just take --

20 A. I've got all the time in the world.

21 Q. Let me take it one piece at a time.

22 The Judge rewrote one of our topics

23 and the Judge said that we were allowed to get

24 testimony from a corporate representative of

25 Summit County -- that's you, correct?

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Are there any fact- -- are there 2 any entities and individuals, other than

3 Defendants, who contributed to the opioid

4 crisis, yes or no?

25 "contributed."

MS. FLOWERS: Objection.

6 A. It's not that -- it's not that I am 7 refusing to answer. It's that you don't like 8 the answer I'm giving, which is "none."

Q. So the answer is that no other 10 entity other than, or individual other than 11 Defendants, contributed to the opioid crisis?

12 A. Because of the legal value of the 13 "contributed," it's none.

14 Q. What's the legal value of the word 15 "contributed"?

16 A. Contributing causes, intervening 17 factors, things like that have value in this 18 process. And a non-expert wouldn't know that.

Certainly somebody who came in here 20 and testified who was not a lawyer, perhaps

21 would talk about some of the factors that I

22 have discussed as contributing. But I

23 understand the value of that word, and so I'm

24 choosing other words.

Q. You think the Judge understands the

Page 426 Page 428 1 value of that word? 1 reviewed this. 2 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. 2 Q. And in this section of Exhibit 2, 3 A. I'm sure the Judge understands the 3 Captain Baker is writing about pharmaceuticals. 4 value of the word. I'm also unsure of whether 4 That's back on page 62. We looked at that this 5 the Judge knew there would be an attorney 5 morning with Ms. Winner. A. Yes, we did. 6 sitting in the seat as the designated 30(b)(6). 6 Q. The Judge understood the value of 7 Q. And he said, back in 2005, that the 8 the word "contributed," he specifically 8 level of threat from pharmaceuticals was, 9 approved of having a corporate representative 9 quote, very high. 10 on that topic, and you're refusing to testify A. Correct. 10 11 using the word "contributed"? 11 Q. Over on page 64, he talked about --12 12 he has a section called "Distribution," and he MS. KEARSE: You --13 MS. FLOWERS: Objection. That is 13 wrote that, "Distribution of diverted 14 not what she's doing. It's time to move on, 14 pharmaceuticals in Summit County is primarily 15 Counsel. That's quite enough. 15 through the individuals involved in the MR. SCHUTTE: One lawyer. Either 16 diversion or theft of the drugs. 17 Pharmaceuticals are diverted in several ways," 17 one. Pick your shot. One at a time. 18 MS. FLOWERS: You know what, 18 and then he goes on to list one, two, three, 19 four of those. 19 listen. MR. SCHUTTE: Well, let's go --20 20 One of them is unscrupulous 21 MS. FLOWERS: You are beating up on 21 physicians. Do you see that? 22 this witness. It's time to move on. 22 A. Yes, I do. Q. You can go ahead and answer the 23 Q. Are unscrupulous physicians 24 question. 24 individuals who contributed to the opioid 25 25 crisis? And I'll say it again. I'm not Page 427 Page 429 1 refusing to answer the question. You just 1 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 2 don't like my answer. The answer is none. 2 A. Unscrupulous physicians played a 3 O. The answer is no one contributed? 3 role in this certainly. 4 Did they contribute to the opioid A. Correct. Q. Q. Okay. We have Exhibit 2 in front 5 crisis? 6 of us, if you could put that in front of you. 6 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 7 Let's see. You talked about this earlier 7 A. They played a role. They played a 8 today. This is Captain Baker's drug threat 8 significant role in this. 9 assessment from Exhibit -- excuse me, from Q. Did people who imported illegal 10 heroin into Summit County play -- excuse me, 10 2005. 11 11 contribute to the opiate crisis? A. Yes. Q. If I could ask you to turn to A. They played a role. 12 12 13 page 60- --13 Q. Did they contribute? 14 14 A. I'm not going to characterize it MS. KEARSE: Can you -- can -- let 15 me -- what -- what exhibit number? 15 using the word "contribute." 16 MR. SCHUTTE: Two. 16 Q. You're not going to use the word 17 MS. KEARSE: Okay, just they're 17 that the Judge put in the topic that he 18 rewrote? 18 buried in the exhibits, so. 19 Do you have Exhibit 2? 19 A. No. 20 I'm sorry, Counsel. What page? 20 MS. KEARSE: Counsel, you're 21 21 badgering the witness. She's answering your MR. SCHUTTE: It's 64. 22 Q. In that -- 64, Captain Baker is --22 questions. There's nothing in the rule --23 and this is a document that you looked at in 23 Were people who --

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MS. KEARSE: -- that says she has

25 to use that word, okay? She's answering your

24

24 preparation for your deposition today, correct?

A. I bel- -- yes, I believe I've

Page 432 Page 430 1 questions the best she can, okay? So move on, A. That this isn't a personal injury 2 please. 2 case. This is not one individual coming 3 3 forward and trying to address their grievances MR. SCHUTTE: Ma'am, let me -- let 4 me engage you on that point for just a second. 4 with the industry. 5 Are you seriously taking the position that when This is the collective pain. This 6 the Judge rewrote the topic and the Judge not 6 is the collective harm that all of these 7 only approved but used the word "contributed," 7 individuals make up that has impacted our 8 you're saying that I am somehow 8 community, both financially, emotionally, in 9 every way. The tax of the resources, the loss 9 mischaracterizing this? MS. KEARSE: What I'm saying is if 10 of human capital. All of these things 10 11 Ms. Johnson wants to say it was -- it -- her 11 aggregate into this sort of enormous harm 12 testimony was it was a -- played a role, she 12 that -- and that's how -- that's how I have 13 does not have to use the word "contribute" in 13 prepared. 14 her answers. She's answering your questions. 14 I have not looked at these Q. Did pill mills, Ms. Johnson, 15 individuals, although I know them and I know 15 16 contribute to the opioid crisis in Summit 16 their stories. But it is all of these people 17 in these spreadsheets who make up a part of the 17 County? 18 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 18 aggregate harm that I'm here to talk about. Q. Is ag- -- excuse me. Is aggregate 19 A. Pill mills played a role in the 19 20 opioid crisis. 20 harm your term, or did someone else come up 21 Q. Ms. Feinstein -- you testified 21 with that? 22 earlier today that a key point with respect to 22 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 23 the opioid crisis is when pain management was 23 A. "Aggregate" is a word I use a lot, 24 I feel like. That -- I -- that wasn't put to 24 identified as a fifth vital sign. 25 Α. 25 me, that -- that's a word that I would use. Yes. Page 431 Page 433 1 Q. Okay. When was pain management 1 yes. 2 identified as a fifth vital sign? Q. Aggregate harm was -- was the --A. It was in the -- I believe in the 3 the use of -- your use of the term aggregate 4 harm was something that you came up with, and 4 late '90s. I think it was originally 5 introduced, and then I think the pain manage --5 that's how you personally view the theory of 6 or the Pain Association pressed for this, which 6 Summit County? 7 Ms. Feinstein's client is on the board of that. 7 A. Yes. I have said aggregate harm, 8 So I believe it was in the late '90s. I 8 and I believe the community impact, those are 9 believe we reviewed -- it's in the complaint. 9 words that I have used in the past. 10 I believe I reviewed that part in the 10 Q. Can I ask you to take -- you still 11 complaint, that it was the American Pain 11 have Exhibit 1 in front of you, or maybe I 12 could put it in front of you. And, again, I 12 Association pushed for that. 13 13 would ask you to turn to Exhibit B, which is Q. And your understanding was that was 14 the rewrite of the topics that was approved by 14 late 1990s? 15 A. I -- that's -- yes, that's my 15 the Judge. And specifically, No. 30. Number 30, you're here as a 16 recollection. 16 17 Q. You testified several times today 17 corporate representative, are you not, 18 about -- and this was in connection with -- I 18 Ms. Johnson, to talk about, quote, "What 19 won't ask you about the criteria -- about 19 efforts, if any, Plaintiffs made to influence 20 the -- the interrogatory responses, and you 20 the DEA's quota setting process and what 21 said that Summit County was not seeking to 21 actions, if any, Plaintiffs took in response to 22 recover based on individual incidents, but 22 the DEA's setting of quotas." 23 rather on the aggregate of the harm. 23 You are here to testify about that

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24 topic?

A.

I am.

25

Can you explain what you meant when

25 you used that term several times today?

Page 434 1 Q. Okay. Let's start with the efforts 1 one, but it was right in that, you know, three-2 that Summit County made to influence the DEA's 2 to five-month time frame, yes. But I remember, 3 yes, the person standing up and saying that, 3 quota setting process. 4 yes. 4 Did Summit County make any such 5 Well -- well, let me see if I can 5 efforts? A. No. 6 tighten that up a bit, because earlier today 7 you talked about December of 2014. 7 Q. Okay. What actions did Summit How often did that task force meet? 8 County take in response to the DEA's setting of 9 9 quotas? A. They meet quarterly now. I -- I 10 believe that I reviewed documents, and I think A. I don't know that there were any 11 I participated even in a couple of subcommittee 11 actions. I certainly had conversations with 12 the detectives who are in the diversion units 12 meetings. So the subcommittees meet more 13 as DEA task force officers, and I asked them 13 frequently. The task force overall I believe 14 has always met just quarterly, but I know that 14 these same questions, to make sure I understood 15 there were different subcommittee meetings that 15 if they had had any impact, and -- and their 16 answer was, no, that there was no influence 16 happen at various times. Q. Right. So let me ask you, to the 17 that was tried to be exerted on the setting of 17 18 best of your ability, to put in your mind's eye 18 quotas on Summit County's behalf. 19 that meeting where --Q. Okay. And these conversations took 20 place in the course of preparing for your 20 A. Uh-huh. 21 21 deposition? Q. -- the family member said "big 22 pharma" --22 A. Correct. 23 Q. In these conversations, did you ask A. Yes. O. -- and the -- sort of the 24 whether Plaintiffs took any actions in response 24 25 collective light went off, "Hey that's --25 to the -- excuse me. In your conversations, Page 437 1 did you ask whether Summit County took any 1 A. Yes. 2 2 actions in response to the DEA's setting of O. -- the cause." 3 3 quotas? Do you have any -- as -- are you 4 able to pinpoint whether that was December of 4 A. I don't know that we talked about 5 the -- the response. We talked about 5 '14 or sometime in 2015? 6 influence, and -- and it was agreed that there 6 A. I know there's a document that if I 7 was really -- there was not -- that there was 7 looked at, it would say -- exhibit. That word. 8 no influence trying to be exerted over that. 8 O. It's late. 9 In response to it, as far as, you know, 9 A. It was an exhibit to Prosecutor 10 certainly there were investigations, but there 10 Wilms' testimony, and I remember because I was 11 was nothing related to the setting of quotas. 11 sitting next to Prosecutor Wilms during that 12 Q. Okay. I want to ask you a few more 12 meeting. And I talked with Attorney Feinstein 13 questions about this meeting of the task force 13 about, I looked at the number, and she said, 14 that took place in December of 2014, the one 14 "Multiply that by 4." 15 where you said that slides were presented and 15 So I know that -- that there was an 16 the family member said, "It's big pharma." 16 interaction between myself and the prosecutor, 17 Do you remember that testimony from 17 about our alarm at that. I think it was 18 earlier today? 18 December, but I -- I couldn't say. 19 MS. KEARSE: Object to form. 19 O. But if we find that document --20 A. I -- I do. And I have to be 20 Α. Yes. 21 21 honest, I don't recall if it was the December O. -- and it's dated, that will tell 22 us --22 meeting or if it was in one of the early 23 meetings in 2015. I know that the first 23 Yes, absolutely. Α.

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24

25

Q.

Okay.

Yes, absolutely.

24 meetings were at the end of '14, and I feel

25 like it was maybe not at the -- at that first

Q. Thank you. What was your job in 2 December of 2014? Was that when you were a 3 legislator? A. I was not a legislator yet. I was

5 still a prosecutor. I was an assistant 6 prosecutor working for the chief prosecutor, 7 Wilms, at the time.

Q. Okay. And were you prosecuting any 9 type of cases in particular at that time?

A. It was -- so I was advising -- I 11 was the police legal advisor, so I was advising 12 police departments whose jurisdictions was 13 within the Akron Municipal Court on charging,

14 on search warrants, things like that. The actual handling of cases, I 15

16 handled felonies in arraignment court, so 17 setting bonds, attorneys becoming appointed,

18 initial appearances. And then I handled

19 misdemeanors in the courtrooms.

20 Q. The -- the -- part of the

21 information that was presented at that meeting

22 was on a -- for one quarter -- I think I

Q. And you said that was that

7 count of 71 point I believe 4, or 72.8 pills 8 per person in Summit County that -- where did

11 health department pulled from OARRS.

13 department pull that data from OARRS?

Q. Okay. When did the health

15 numbers like that, but I saw, in preparation

16 for my deposition, I reviewed a chart that was

17 produced by -- gosh, what's his name -- Rich

18 Marountas, who does a lot of the statistics at

O. The data that shows that number of 21 pills per person in Summit County from 2010 was

MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

A. You know, I -- I don't know the

25 answer to that. I know that there was

3 that by 4" --

A. Correct.

9 that data come from?

-- correct?

4

5

10

12

23

24

2 testimony about, "Well, you have to multiply

You've also testified about this

A. The 71.6 in 2010 was data that the

A. I don't know. I remember seeing

23 understood your testimony, for one quarter, it

24 was number of pills in Summit County, correct? 25 Correct.

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1 significant changes to OARRS in 2014-ish, so I

Page 440

Page 441

2 don't know what was available. I -- I don't

3 believe -- there certainly wasn't the public

4 dashboard on OARRS that there is now. And I

5 think a lot of that information came from the

6 public dashboard, because Rich does not have

7 specific access like Dr. Smith would or a

8 physician would or law enforcement would.

Q. Well, let me break that into

10 pieces. If in -- if by December of 2014 or

11 early 2015, whenever that meeting took place,

12 someone was able to go into the OARRS database

13 and pull out and analyze and sort out that the

14 number from 2010 was, I believe you said, 71.6?

15 A. Yes.

O. That -- that data, whether it was

17 accessible or not to the statistician, that

18 data resided in the OARRS database as of 2010,

19 correct?

16

20 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

21 A. I -- I don't -- I don't know.

22 Because I don't know -- the access to OARRS was

23 really limited to just one individual at a

24 time, so this sort of 30,000-foot view of

25 everything in the county, I don't know if that

Page 439

1 was being done. 2

Q. Right, but let me draw a

3 distinction, ma'am. The -- draw a distinction

4 between access and the data.

5 A. Oh, okay. Sure.

6 The data -- the data was in OARRS,

7 whether somebody could access it or not,

8 correct?

9 MS. KEARSE: Objection.

10 Speculation.

A. I -- I honestly don't know. I

12 don't know what was being kept in 2010. My --

13 my interaction with OARRS was limited on a

14 case-by-case basis.

15 Q. But if the 2010 data in -- if

16 you're able, in 2014, to pull data from 2010

17 out of OARRS, wouldn't you agree with me that

18 that data must have been in there in 2010;

19 somebody didn't put it in later?

20 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.

21 A. No, I disagree. I mean, certainly

22 I -- we implemented a new system in Summit

23 County for our prosecutor's office that, you

24 know, we're -- we're inputting data and, you

25 know, reorganizing how data is aggregated and

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19 public health.

22 available in 2010, correct?

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3

1 mined to sort of be able to run reports more

- 2 effectively than -- than we could with prior.
- 3 So, I mean, someplace, somewhere 4 that data existed. Whether it was in OARRS, I
- 5 don't know, or if in 2014 they had to go back
- 6 and pull from different buckets to create
- 7 41 in a 41 in farment in a Land land
- 7 this -- this information. I don't know.
- 8 Q. In 2010, who controlled who had 9 access to OARRS?
- 10 A. Well, it's statutory.
- 11 Q. So it was controlled by the
- 12 legislature?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. Changing subjects, and I'm
- 15 going to probably do that a bit now as we move
- 16 toward the conclusion.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 Q. You testified about this report
- 19 from October 1st of 2010, and we've marked as
- 20 an exhibit that. And then I understood your
- 21 testimony, some 35 days later Republicans were
- 22 elected, and you -- I think you used the term
- 23 that the report became obsolete?
- 24 A. Yeah. And, you know, I -- I'm not
- 25 suggesting that the report was buried. I

1 certainly don't want that to be the impression.

- What I can only surmise happened,
- 3 because it didn't reach people like myself,
- 4 like Prosecutor Gessner, like Jerry Craig, is
- 5 that it didn't have a champion anymore, that
- 6 the folks who really were invested in -- in the
- 7 mission that drove that report were no longer
- 8 in power. So it -- it wasn't that it got
- 9 buried or anything. It just didn't have a
- 10 champion.
- 11 Q. Okay. And I wasn't suggesting that
- 12 it got buried.
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. I was trying to get at, when you
- 15 said obsolete, you're not intending to suggest
- 16 to the Judge or the jury that the data in the
- 17 report --
- 18 A. Oh, yes.
- 19 Q. -- somehow turned out to be wrong
- 20 35 days later?
- A. No, absolutely not.
- Q. Okay. The report was accurate 35
- 23 days later?
- MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- Q. Let me put it this way. The report

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- 1 was as accurate 35 days later as the day it was 2 issued, correct?
  - A. That's fair.
- 4 Q. Okay. It's that the utility of the
- 5 report, because of the changes in the
- 6 administration, the utility was lower because
- 7 it didn't have an advocate?
  - A. I don't know if it's utility or
- 9 reach. I don't know who -- you know, who it
- 10 was disseminated to or who sort of, you know,
- 11 was carrying the torch at the time.
- My assumption would be that it was
- 13 the governor. And then he wasn't the governor
- 14 anymore, and so at that point, I don't know how
- 15 far reaching that report would have been
- 16 carried.
- 17 Q. But the report still existed on the
- 18 government website, did it not?
  - MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 20 A. I don't know if it was on the
- 21 website. I know it's a public record, but,
- 22 again, if you don't know it's there can, you
- 23 don't know what to ask for kind of thing.
- Q. Topic 23, I believe on that one we 25 can look, actually, to Attachment A.

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1 A. Okay.

- Q. And Ms. Feinstein touched on this,
- 3 so I don't want to deal with it for a long
- 4 time. But the topic is any task force program,
- 5 working group, committee, or other organization
- 6 designed to address opioid prescribing,
- 7 promotion, marketing, distribution, diversion,
- 8 use, and/or misuse.
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. When is -- when was the very first
- 11 time there was a task force or a program or
- 12 working group or committee or other
- 13 organization in Summit County to address these
- 14 topics relating to opioids?
- 15 A. Well, there -- there has been a
- 16 drug task force for decades. They were not
- 17 specifically targeting opioids only. They --
- 18 you know, whatever drug. So they weren't just
- 19 for opioids, but they've always -- there's
- 20 always been a drug task force within our law
- 21 enforcement agencies.
- The first one that I am aware of is
- 23 the Opiate Task Force that we've talked about,
- 24 that ADM hosts. In early 2017 -- sorry --
- 25 Q. '14?

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A. No. That was in 2014.

2 At the end of 2017, the United Way

- 3 of Summit County made invitations to community
- 4 leaders to convene an opioid leadership council
- 5 made up of elected officials, business leaders,
- 6 clergy, and the local philanthropic
- 7 organizations to come together to have
- 8 conversation about it from sort of a more
- 9 executive level.

1

- At that point the Opiate Task Force
- 11 had approximately 400 members, and so it was
- 12 really robust, and everyone from consumers of
- 13 treatment to the county executive could be in
- 14 the room at the same time.
- 15 So that task force was brought
- 16 together, and the executive declared the state
- 17 of emergency in October of 2017, and with that
- 18 state of emergency, mobilized the Incident
- 19 Management Assistance Team to formulate a plan
- 20 in response to the opioid epidemic.
- 21 As part of the IMAT plan moving
- 22 forward, there was a grant. I believe it was
- 23 grant money that was used to bring in some
- 24 experts on what we call intercept mapping, and
- 25 identifying, really, what do we have in Summit
  - Page 447
- 1 County as far as our resources. And by
- 2 resources I mean what treatment of -- what
- 3 treatment is out there, what education programs
- 4 are out there, what interdiction. Just really
- 5 taking a global perspective on everything that
- 6 was touching the crisis. And they created some
- 7 priorities from that, and the IMAT team is
- 8 implementing those priorities through this
- 9 structure with United Way.
- 10 The other organizations or working
- 11 groups are ongoing ones. We have a criminal
- 12 justice advisory board where there is
- 13 discussion about opioids. There is a jail
- 14 capacity monthly meeting where we talk about
- 15 exactly what it is, jail capacity: who's in
- 16 the jail, what are our pressure points there.
- 17 There has been a task force
- 18 assembled of elected officials and community
- 19 leaders regarding the jail operations, and part
- 20 of their research focused on treatment in the
- 21 jail, specifically for opioids, and what
- 22 opportunities are available for treatment
- 23 there. And that was done in 2018.
- There are other -- make sure I'm
- 25 reading this correctly -- you know, working

- Page 448 1 groups or organizations. There have certainly
- 2 been community meetings in every one of the 31
- 3 communities within Summit County, trying to get
- 4 information from law enforcement, trying to get
- 5 information from public health. So I wouldn't
- 6 call it a task force, but there have certainly 7 been different community groups coming together
- 8 for these discussions.
- O. Ms. Johnson, the task force that
- 10 you said had been in place for decades, that
- 11 was called the "Drug Task Force"?
- A. The Summit County Drug Unit. 12
- 13 Q. And was that a -- was that a group
- 14 that was solely within law enforcement?
- 15 A. Yes.
  - Q. Okay. The group that met in
- 17 December of 2014 or early 2015, what was that
- 18 task force called?
- 19 A. That was the Summit County
- 20 Opioid Task For- -- or Opiate Task Force, I
- 21 think.

16

- 22 Q. And was the meeting in December of
- 23 2014 or early in 2015 the first meeting with
- 24 the Summit County Opiate Task Force?
- 25 Yes.

- Q. Okay. In general terms, who was
- 3 Law enforcement, et cetera?
- A. Sure, there was law enforcement,

2 involved in that? What categories of people?

- 5 judges, treatment providers, health care
- 6 professionals. And I know treatment providers
- 7 are health care professionals, but I think of,
- 8 you know, addiction treatment providers.
- 9 Hospital representatives, consumers of
- 10 treatment, family members there to support,
- 11 elected officials, public health was always
- 12 represented, ADM was always represented.
- 13 Interested community members, members of the
- 14 clergy. It was a -- it was a wide variety of
- 15 individuals.
- 16 Q. And, again, at that meeting, the
- 17 bulb goes off. Big pharma is disc--- or the
- 18 pharma industry is the, I think, what you said
- 19 was -- was the word that was used. And you
- 20 testified in response to one of Ms. Feinstein's
- 21 question that the action that Summit County
- 22 chose to take was to file this lawsuit.
- 23 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 24 Q. Correct?
- 25 We --

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- 1 Q. Not to report to the DEA or the
- 2 FDA; it was to pursue claims against
- 3 manufacturers and distributors of prescription 4 opioids?
- 5 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 6 A. That is how we chose to address
- 7 getting at the industry, yes, that's correct.
- 8 Q. Was a lawsuit discussed at that
- 9 meeting, the one in December of '14 or early 10 '15?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Okay. When was the first time a
- 13 lawsuit was discussed, to your knowledge?
- 14 A. I can't speak for some of the
- 15 smaller communities. But, you know, if there
- 16 were discussions on, you know, Mogadore council
- 17 I don't know.
- But as the County as a whole, those
- 19 discussions began in 2000 -- early 2017, yes.
- 20 Perhaps even late 2016, but probably more
- 21 realistically, like, talking about it
- 22 legitimately in 2017.
- Q. Okay. If the light went off, at
- 24 least in your head, in December of '14 or early
- 25 2015, why did there not be -- well, why was

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- 1 there not any consideration of a lawsuit until
- 2 late 2016, early 2017?
- 3 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
- 4 A. We were still just trying to save
- 5 lives. And -- and I am not saying that in a
- 6 cliche way. The focus was not on getting at
- 7 the head of the monster. The focus was on
- 8 saving people in our community. Our collective
- 9 resources and efforts were very specifically
- 10 directed at treatment, at how to increase the
- 11 bed capacity, how to find ways to leverage
- 12 funds, how to make sure we could staff these
- 13 places, because the real concern, I recall, at
- 14 some of those early meetings was, even if we
- 15 increase capacity, do we have educated
- 16 professionals to treat these folks? If -- if
- 17 we built a thousand-bed facility, who would run 17
- 18 it?
- 19 So there -- there was a real focus
- 20 on saving lives that was really overwhelming
- 21 the conversation in '15 and '16.
- Q. What changed in late 2016 or early
- 23 2017 when there was a discussion of -- of the
- 24 lawsuit?
- A. We finally got better at harm

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- 1 reduction. People stopped dying five and six a
- 2 day. I mean, we were literally having five and
- 3 six people die every day. And when we flooded
- 4 our streets with Narcan and with information
- 5 and perhaps the Good Samaritan bill played a
- 6 role; I don't know. I think that that whole
- 7 idea of understanding you can't dump people in
- 8 fields. We got better at harm reduction.
- 9 And because we spent a lot of money
- 10 and a lot of effort at it, we were to be able
- 11 to take that collective breath and say, "Okay,
- 12 we have put the tourniquet on, we have triaged
- 13 this. Now what is the surgical step to help us
- 14 in our process of getting better?"
- 15 Q. You testified earlier that one of
- 16 the transcripts that you reviewed in preparing
- 17 for your deposition was Dr. Doug Smith?
- 18 A. Yes.

19

- Q. Okay. What -- for the record, what
- 20 is his position?
- A. He is the medical director for the
- 22 ADM Board.
- Q. Do you believe he's knowledgeable?
- 24 A. Oh. sure.
- Q. Knowledgeable about opioid issues?
  - Page 453
- il 1 A. Yeah, of course.
  - 2 Q. Do you believe he has expertise?
  - 3 A. Yes.
  - 4 Q. Do you respect his opinion?
  - 5 MS. KEARSE: Object to form.
  - 6 A. He and I have had disagreements on 7 certain things.
  - 8 Q. We can disagree but still respect 9 each other, correct?
  - 10 A. You and I can talk after this.
  - 11 But I -- I believe that Dr. Smith
  - 12 is -- is certainly well versed in -- in
  - 13 opioids, yes.
  - 14 Q. Well, I'll state for the record I
  - 15 respect you.
  - 16 A. Appreciate that.
    - Q. Captain Baker, who wrote this drug
  - 18 threat assessment back in 2005, was he at the
  - 19 Summit County Opiate Task Force meeting in
  - 20 December of '14 or early '15?
  - A. I don't know that he was. I think
  - 22 he had retired at that point.
  - Q. Okay. I'm going to --
  - A. It was right around that time.
    - Q. What about Detective Paolino?

25

1	A. Paolino? I'm sure I'm sure he	1	Page 456 concluded.
	was I'm sure one of them was or someone on	$\frac{1}{2}$	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
	their task on the Summit County Drug Unit	$\frac{2}{3}$	MR. SCHUTTE: Thank you for your
	•	l .	, ,
	was. I I recall seeing detectives there	5	time and your patience.  THE WITNESS: Thank you.
	very frequently, sure.	6	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This conclude
$\begin{vmatrix} 6 \\ 7 \end{vmatrix}$		7	
	contribute that he thought that by October of 2014, the availability of controlled	0	the deposition. The time is 8:56 p.m.
_	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	8 9	(Deposition concluded at 8:56 p.m.)
10		10	~~~~
	· 1	11	
11 12	•	12	
13		13	
	<b>O</b> ,	14	
	was taking place about opiates, did he raise	15	
	his hand and say, "Well, from my perspective,		
	the availability of controlled prescription drugs is decreasing"?	16 17	
	e e		
18	A. I don't remember him saying that,	18 19	
20		20	
	Q. Did he say anything about that the distribution at that time of controlled	20 21	
	prescription drugs was decreasing?	21 22	
23		23	
	was at that particular meeting. I know I have	24	
	seen him at them, but I I don't recall	25	
23	seen min at them, but I I don't recan	23	
1	Page 455	1	Page 457
	whether he was even at that particular one.		Whereupon, counsel was requested to give
2	88 )		instructions regarding the witness's review of
	Ms. Kearse, is that we take five or 10 minutes.		the transcript pursuant to the Civil Rules.
	I'm pretty close to being finished, but let me	4	CICNIA TUDE
	just circle up with my colleague and see if we	5	SIGNATURE:
	can close this out.		Transcript review was requested pursuant to the
7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1	applicable Rules of Civil Procedure.
8	e e	8	TD ANGCDIDT DELIVEDY.
9		10	TRANSCRIPT DELIVERY:
	at 8:34.	1	Counsel was requested to give instructions
11	,		regarding delivery date of transcript.
12		12	
	8:56.	13	
14	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	14	
	no further questions.	15	
16	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	16	
	questions?	17	
18	S	18	
19		19	
20		20	
21	3	21	
	e second.	22	
23	, ,	23	
	here today and answering the questions of	24	
25	counsel. I think this deposition is now	25	

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888-391-3376

	D 450	D 460
1	Page 458	Page 460  1 Veritext Legal Solutions
1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	1100 Superior Ave
2	The State of Ohio, )	2 Suite 1820 Cleveland, Ohio 44114
3	SS:	3 Phone: 216-523-1313
4	County of Cuyahoga. )	4 January 18, 2019
5		5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
6	I, Stephen J. DeBacco, a Notary	To: Ms. Kearse
7	Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly	6 Case Name: In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation v.
8	commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify	7
9	that the within named witness, GRETA JOHNSON,	Veritext Reference Number: 3190232
	was by me first duly sworn to testify the	Witness: Greta Johnson , 30(B)(6) Deposition Date: 1/15/2019
	truth, the whole truth and nothing but the	9 10 Dear Sir/Madam:
	truth in the cause aforesaid; that the	11
	testimony then given by the above-referenced	Enclosed please find a deposition transcript. Please have the witness 12
	witness was by me reduced to stenotypy in the	review the transcript and note any changes or corrections on the
	presence of said witness; afterwards	included errata sheet, indicating the page, line number, change, and
	transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true	14
		the reason for the change. Have the witness' signature notarized and 15
	and correct transcription of the testimony so	forward the completed page(s) back to us at the Production address
	given by the above-referenced witness.	16 shown 17 above, or email to production-midwest@veritext.com.
19	I do further certify that this	18
20	deposition was taken at the time and place in	If the errata is not returned within thirty days of your receipt of 19
21		this letter, the reading and signing will be deemed waived.
22	completed without adjournment.	20 21 Sincerely,
23		22 Production Department
24		23 24
25		25 NO NOTARY REQUIRED IN CA
	Page 459	Page 461
1	I do further certify that I am not	1 DEPOSITION REVIEW
_		CERTIFICATION OF WITNESS
2	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	ASSIGNMENT REFERENCE NO: 3190232
3	1 27	3 CASE NAME: In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation v. DATE OF DEPOSITION: 1/15/2019
4		4 WITNESS' NAME: Greta Johnson, 30(B)(6)
5	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto	5 In accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure, I have read the entire transcript of
6	J J	6 my testimony or it has been read to me.
	Cleveland, Ohio, on this 18th day of	7 I have made no changes to the testimony as transcribed by the court reporter.
	January, 2019.	8
9		9 Date Greta Johnson, 30(B)(6)
10		10 Sworn to and subscribed before me, a
11		Notary Public in and for the State and County,  11 the referenced witness did personally appear
12	Steph & Dance	and acknowledge that:
13	supul W. Pacco	They have read the transcript;
14	Stephen J. DeBacco, Notary Public	13 They signed the foregoing Sworn
15	within and for the State of Ohio	Statement; and 14 Their execution of this Statement is of
16		their free act and deed.
	My commission expires September 30, 2022.	I have affixed my name and official seal
18	1 1	16
19		this day of, 20
20		18 Notary Public
21		19
		Commission Expiration Date
22		20   21
23		22 23
		1 43
24 25		24

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1	DEPOSITION REVIEW	Page 462
	CERTIFICATION OF WITNESS	
2	ASSIGNMENT REFERENCE NO: 3190232	
3	CASE NAME: In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation v.	
4	DATE OF DEPOSITION: 1/15/2019	
4	WITNESS' NAME: Greta Johnson , 30(B)(6) In accordance with the Rules of Civil	
	Procedure, I have read the entire transcript of	
6 7	my testimony or it has been read to me.  I have listed my changes on the attached	
	Errata Sheet, listing page and line numbers as	
	well as the reason(s) for the change(s).	
9	I request that these changes be entered	
10	as part of the record of my testimony.	
10	I have executed the Errata Sheet, as well	
	as this Certificate, and request and authorize	
	that both be appended to the transcript of my testimony and be incorporated therein.	
13		
	Date Greta Johnson , 30(B)(6)	
14	Sworn to and subscribed before me, a	
15	Notary Public in and for the State and County,	
	the referenced witness did personally appear	
	and acknowledge that:	
17	They have read the transcript; They have listed all of their corrections	
18	in the appended Errata Sheet;	
10	They signed the foregoing Sworn	
19	Statement; and Their execution of this Statement is of	
20	their free act and deed.	
21	I have affixed my name and official seal	
22 23	this day of, 20	
23	Notary Public	
24		
25	Commission Expiration Date	
23	Commission Expiration Date	
23		Page 463
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	ERRATA SHEET	Page 463
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# Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 30

- (e) Review By the Witness; Changes.
- (1) Review; Statement of Changes. On request by the deponent or a party before the deposition is completed, the deponent must be allowed 30 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available in which:
- (A) to review the transcript or recording; and
- (B) if there are changes in form or substance, to sign a statement listing the changes and the reasons for making them.
- (2) Changes Indicated in the Officer's Certificate. The officer must note in the certificate prescribed by Rule 30(f)(1) whether a review was requested and, if so, must attach any changes the deponent makes during the 30-day period.

DISCLAIMER: THE FOREGOING FEDERAL PROCEDURE RULES

ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 1,

2016. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE FEDERAL RULES

OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

## VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

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